



**1943-1993**

**CELEBRATING FIFTY  
YEARS OF  
PROTOPLASMIC  
EXCELLENCE, FEATURING  
THE TALENTS OF  
LYNN ALLEN  
SAM GAFFORD  
TROY HICKMAN  
JOHN HURLEY  
TONY LORENZ  
DOUG LUMLEY**

**WITH  
DAVE BERNES  
J. KEVIN CARRIER  
MATT FEAZELL  
ANTHONY GRAY  
MAX INK  
JASON MARCY  
LARRY NIBERT  
BRAD PARNELL  
PAUL QUINN**



**PROTOPLASM  
PRESS**

**12**

**OCT  
\$2.50**



Whoo-hah! This here is the big one! A jam packed 70-80 pages (at this moment, I'm *still* adding junk in!), tons of creators and stories and pin-ups and baffle gab, all celebrating fifty funky years of Protoplasmic paraphernalia!

Read

Troy Hickman's expose for the full history. I'd like to thank all of the

creators again for their time, and *especially* those who've had to wait over a year for some of this work to see print.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chicago was great! Photos and more are around this 'zine somewhere! At one point, I was going to write a long essay detailing all the minutiae and crazy moments in Chicago, but Jason Marcy beat me to the punch with his fine memoir, fittingly called *Jay's Massive Chicago Comicon Report, 1993*. All sorts of cool con sketches, kinda-blurry photos, and Jay's raw and honest reminisces fill this thing, available from Jay for...get this...a mere 25¢!!! Jay, the *Powerwus* man, is at 3 Rowanwood St., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8L 7H1. Heck, send him a buck and ask

for some of his other stuff!

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks again to Sam Gafford, UFO President and part-time wrestler, for coming through in the clutch and printing this

## The Slimeball Speaks part XIX

massive tome for me this time out. Sam, if gods ever walked the earth, well, you'd probably be allowed to walk in their general vicinity.

\*\*\*\*\*

The stories this time out take place all around the *Amoeba Adventures* continuity. (Yes, there's a continuity here!) Troy Hickman and Doug Lumley's stunning Rambunny tale, of course, takes place immediately after the events of last issue. Lynn Allen's wacky Spif story comes in around the vicinity of #4 or so, while both John Hurley's Herr Heinous tale and my Ninja Ant caper take place immediately before next issue. The Dawn Star and Prometheus tale, "Summer's End," also comes in around the #11-#13 time frame. Finally,

"Perspective," reprinted from a 1991 anthology, takes place between *Amoeba Adventures* #0 and #1. Remember, there will be a test on all this later!

\*\*\*\*\*

Coming up: #13 and #14 ought to be out before too long, and the celebrated team of Nik & Max have split into two to handle 'em. Next issue is written, drawn, and all by me, and features the return of Herr Heinous in a wacky little epic. #14, coming in November, is written *and* drawn by Max Ink and is a stunning domestic violence story following in the footsteps of *Silent Storm*. I've been keeping in close consultation with Max about this, (being somewhat gun-shy about others handling "my babies") and must say it is his best work ever. Finally, #15 *ought* to be out by year's end, and is a somewhat weird change of pace called "Bone Machine."

\*\*\*\*\*

Enough of this! Read this issue! Send yer comments! Ka kite ano!

Ⓟ  
Nik!



**AMOEBAS ADVENTURES #12**, Oktober 1993. Published right this minute by Protoplasm Press, PO Box 2230, University MS 38677. Additional copies lotsa money. Subscriptions! \$5/4 issues. Everything in the world C1993 Nik Dirga and his flunkies. Dedicated 2 The Connells.

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# 50 YEARS

of

What a long, strange trip it's been. It's hard to believe the little guy's been appearing in comics for 50 years. Why, I can remember...what's that? You didn't know Prometheus has been gracing the four-colored page for 50 years now? Oh, that's right, you've probably only read the current Nik Dirga version. Well, then, let me set you straight; let me tell you a bit about the history of our favorite protoplasm.

To be there at the very beginning, we have to go back even more than 50 years, even before the dawn of comic books as we know them, to the days of the pulps. The year was 1933, and publishing magnate Colonel Beauregarde Dirga was looking for a lead story to front his new magazine, *Weirdly Peculiar Stories of the Strange and Mysterious*. Recognizing talent, the Colonel sought out one of pulp fiction's greatest writers, H.P. Lovecraft. Unfortunately, Lovecraft, in one of the many odd, sitcom-like twists of his life, had gotten his toe stuck in a bathtub faucet and was unable to write the story.

# PROMETHEUS

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A look back

by Troy Hickman

However, he recommended his brother, Jeffy Lovecraft, who went to work on the piece immediately. When he was finished, he had crafted a modest little tale called "Terror of the Psuedopods," a story of a mad scientist who had created a huge, sentient amoeba to do his evil bidding. A student of the classics, Jeffy borrowed from the alternate title of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and called the protoplasm "Prometheus."

Unfortunately, the story was never to see print, as the Colonel's magazine died stillborn due to the loss of one its major financiers, a young man who decided instead to spend his money on a particularly elaborate candelabra. That young man's name...Liberace.

Flash forward a decade to the war-torn world of 1943. For the last few years, Col. Dirga had made a fairly successful living as the owner of Whistlin' Dixie Publications (their motto: "When we say our comics are good, we're not just Whistlin' Dixie"), publishers of the patriotic superhero comic, *The Flaming Flag*. Though the comic did well enough, the Colonel wasn't satisfied and, seeing the success of Robin and Bucky, decided to

give the Flag a sidekick. Never one to waste anything, he recalled a dim memory from his pulp days, and soon a new Nazi-fighting team was born: The Flaming Flag and Promy, the Boy Blob!

So popular was this new addition, this adolescent of goo, that soon he was awarded his own series, *Slap! Comics* featuring *Prometheus*. The writer and artist of the strip was none other than Dionysius "Dik" Dirga, the Colonel's nephew and one of the most prolific creators of the Golden Age. Dik had risen to fame doing the cheesecake strip "Tessie the

FLAMING FLAG

No. 17

NOV-DEC 1944



*Flaming Flag Comics* #17, from 1944

Tease" for *Stars and Stripes*, and was the originator of the popular catchphrase "Hey, let's get these broads drunk!" For the next few years, *Slap! Comics* did remarkably well, each month selling 2 million copies in the U.S. and 3 million in Germany (a phenomenon that has never been fully explained).

In the late 40s, however, bad luck would plague our plucky protoplasm. With the end of the war, Pro ran out of notable villains, and was forced to face the villainy of such luminaries as The Crimson Doorstop and Bob, the Guy with a Loaded Gun.

Sales plummeted like Shelley Winter's chins, and the Colonel panicked, changing the genre of Pro's stories each month, looking for a success. We were inflicted with westerns ("The Amoeba Kid and His Horse Rudy"), jungle stories ("Prom-Ga, Czar of the Serengeti"), even esoteric comics ("Prometheus the Pirate Detective and his Space Firemen"). Nothing seemed to work.



From a post-war *Slap! Comics*, Prometheus faces The Tapeworm.



From *Tales to Coagulate* #48, the short-lived return of the Golden Age hero, Whipping Boy.

As if that were not enough, in 1951 Whistlin' Dixie was sued by National Periodical Publications, who claimed Prometheus was a thinly-disguised Superman. Even though NPP could show no similarities besides both characters having two arms, they won the case, and *Slap! Comics* was canceled.

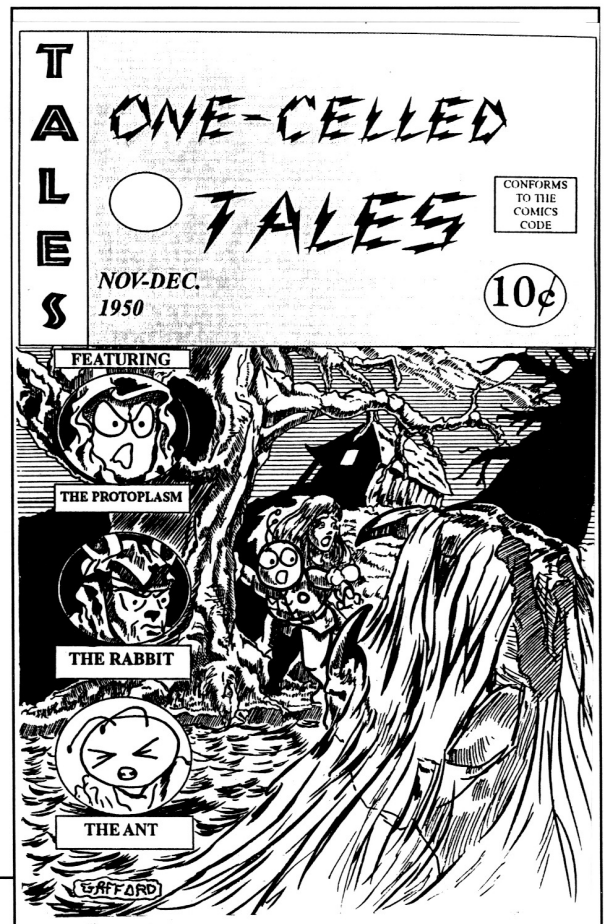
Prometheus would not be seen again until early 1954, when he became the host of Whistlin' Dixie's flagship horror title, *The Garage of Gore*. Obviously an attempt to cash in on the hoopla of the Senate hearings, *Garage* featured gristly horror stories and each issue sported a prominent "head-light" story (a man driving at night without his headlights on. Colonel Dirga believed this to be the very height of terror). The book bombed, as Whistlin' Dixie was never able to understand or duplicate the success of EC comics. *Garage* was canceled at #7, the cover of which showed a close-up of a man eating his own head. They just never got it.

Pro would remain in limbo for 5 years. Then, in 1959, Dik Dirga, seeing the dawn of the Silver Age of superheroes, and desperately needing beer money, convinced the Colonel to launch a new title. Soon the comic racks were graced by *Tales to Coagulate*, a "double feature" book starring Prometheus and a new hero, The Phenomenal Flexi-Man. Dik's stories and art were at their finest in the Silver Age Prometheus stories, due largely to his editor, who ironically was a relative of NPP's Julius Schwartz: his daughter Bermuda Schwartz, who pioneered such innovations as bordering the

cover with the patented YoYo Stripes and introducing beatnik lingo into the comics (see stories such as "The Ginchy Dr. Java-Jive and his With-It Hepcats," adapted from a story by Jack Kerouac).

In late 1968, however, tragedy struck. Dik Dirga, Pro's biographer for 25 years, discovered the existence of *Penthouse* magazine, and has not left his home since. The Colonel cursed his libidinous nephew, and thought for sure his promethean empire was about to crumble. Luckily, there was an heir to Dik's throne, literally. In 1969, the writing and art of Pro's adventures was taken over by Dik's son, Rigoletto "Rik" Dirga, a bright young man who had recently graduated art school on a scholarship for drawing "Tippy," the matchbook turtle. Rik brought to Pro a totally new idea, the concept of "relevant" comics.

Unfortunately, Rik had been a very introverted child, and had no idea what relevance was. He believed he was striking out in new directions by showing his characters dancing in public, and depicting one supporting character "with the beginnings of a mustache." The apex of his bold new trend came when he heard of Spider-Man's involvement with LSD. Not to be outdone, he de-



From the short-lived "Garage of Gore" era

## 50 YEARS

cided Prometheus should do the same, and soon our amoebic pal found himself in Kentucky as a member of the Louisville Street Department. As had become a family tradition, Rik just didn't get it.

With Rik at the helm, Pro chugged along until the mid-70s, the time of the big Whistlin' Dixie Implosion. No, they didn't have a glut of book resulting in mass cancellations. Rather, because of a mix-up at the Sparta plant, an entire month's worth of comics were printed on a highly unstable paper, which would implode when handled, often taking the reader with it. The scandal which followed caused the company to keep a low profile for the next few years.

By the late 70s, though, Pro had resurfaced, and had even become popular enough to have his own primetime TV show, "Prometheus and the Plumber," an action series about a protoplasmic primetime investigator (Herve Villacheze) and his pipe-fitting partner (Ron Pallillo, Horshak of "Welcome Back Kotter"). The show only lasted 4 weeks before it became "Prom the Detective," then "Prom's Place" and finally a sitcom, "Getting It All" (don't ask). It was eventually replaced by the Foster Brooks Variety Hour.

Perhaps the strangest period of Pro's history came in the mid-1980s when it seemed that Whistlin' Dixie, defunct since the Donkey Show scandal of '81 (I can't talk about it now), had let the copyright



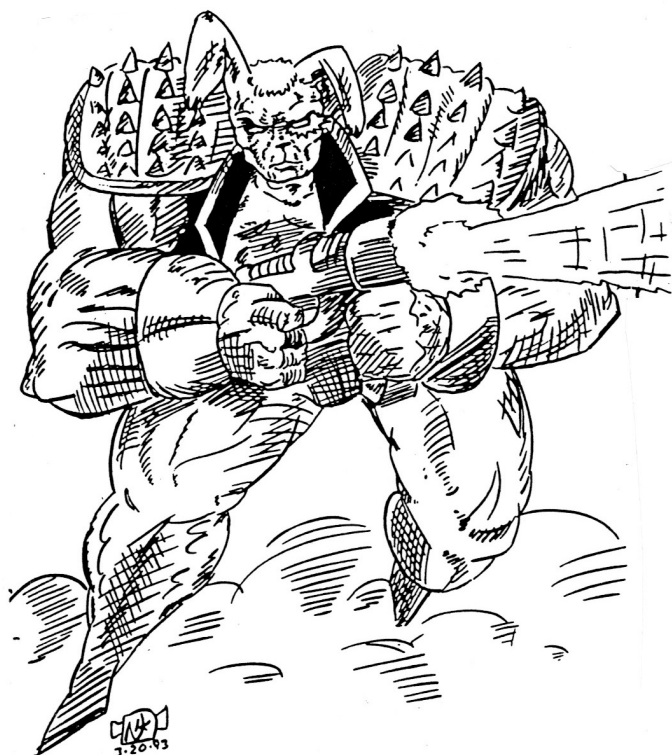
One of Dik Dirga's vintage 60s comics

on Prometheus expire. Soon, every two-bit publisher with a printing press was doing their own version of the character, causing us to endure such atrocities as *Child-Like Genetic Samurai Protoplasms* (Delusional Publications), *Prometheus at the Convent of Smut* (Wanker Press), and *X-Oplasmic Adventures* (Marvel Comics).

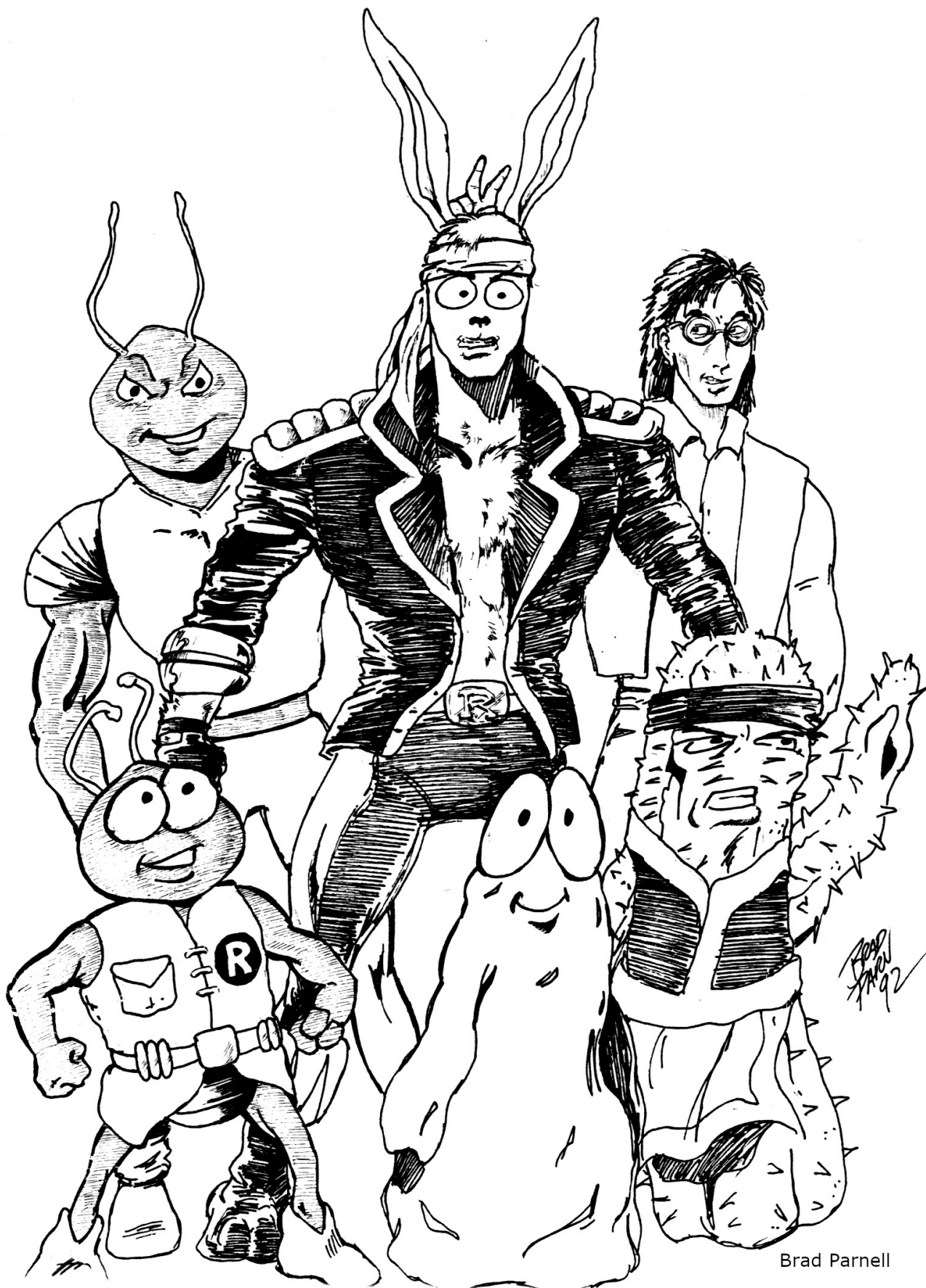
This nonsense might have gone on forever, but in the late 1980s, a teen-age boy began having visions, began drawing in his notebook. He found himself sketching a strange little character, a figure out of spiritus mundi, out of racial memory. It was then that this man-child, Nik Dirga, great-great nephew of the Colonel himself, realized his heritage, and *Amoeba Adventures* was born.

And you know the rest. Nik built Protoplasm Press into a publishing giant, and AA became a sensation, each issue selling hundreds of copies in the U.S. and thousands in Germany (someone really ought to look into that). And Nik? Well, of course, he just doesn't get it.

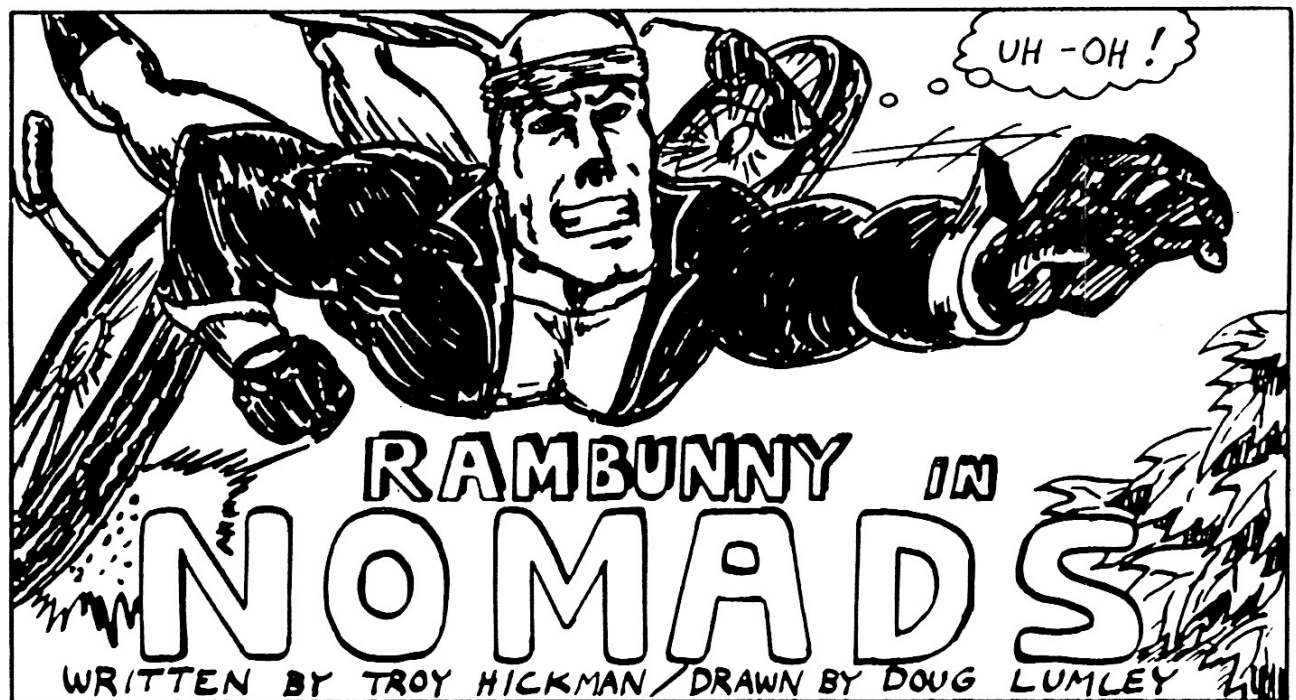
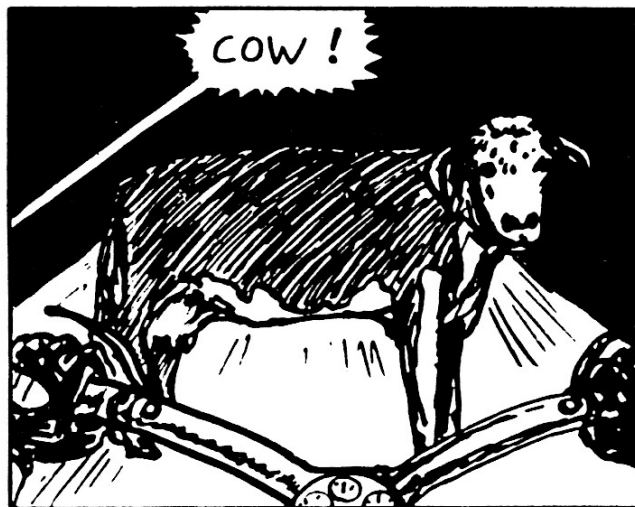
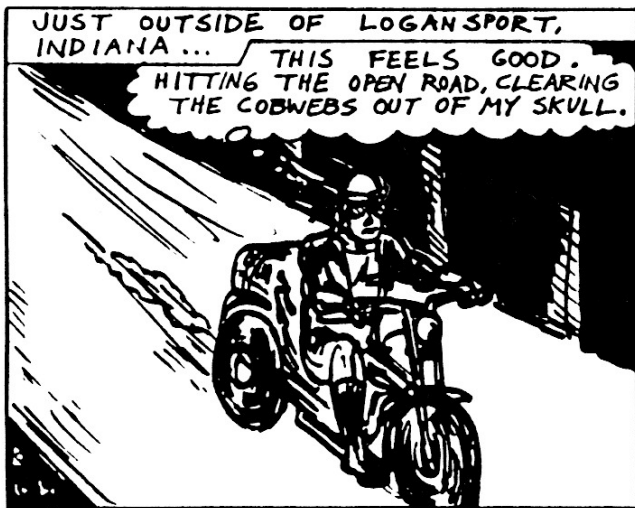
From 1992's *X-Amoeba*, which was cancelled before publication because the printer broke down trying to print all them crazy lines.





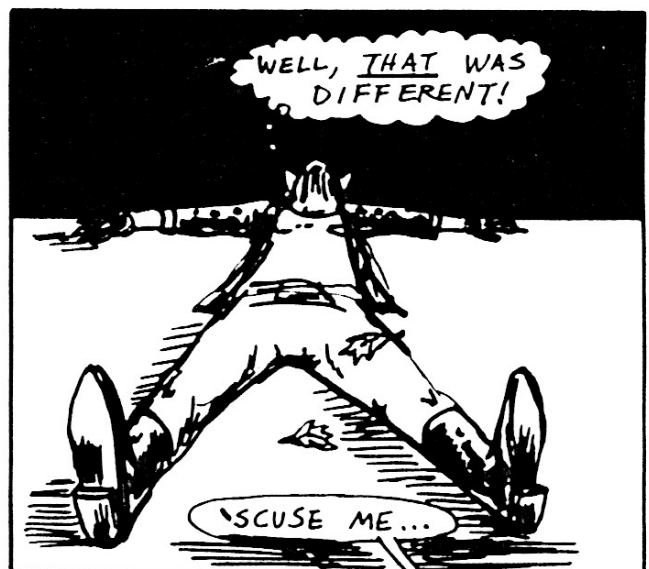


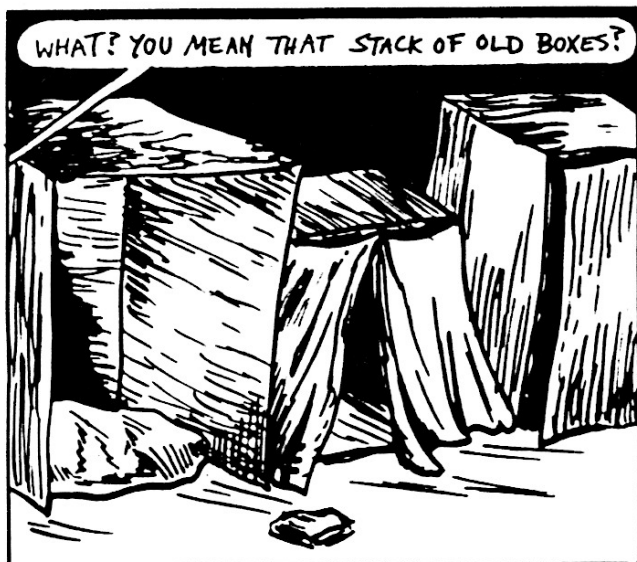
Brad Parnell

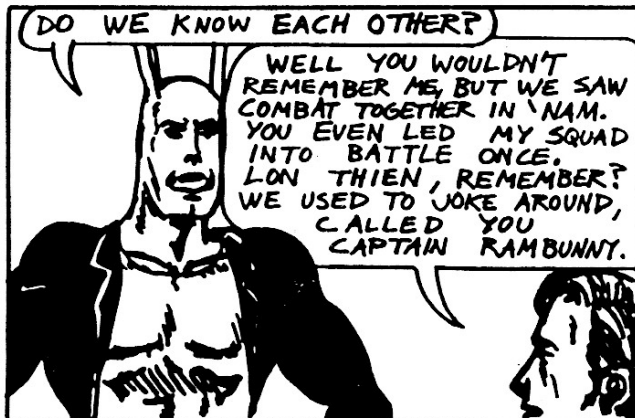
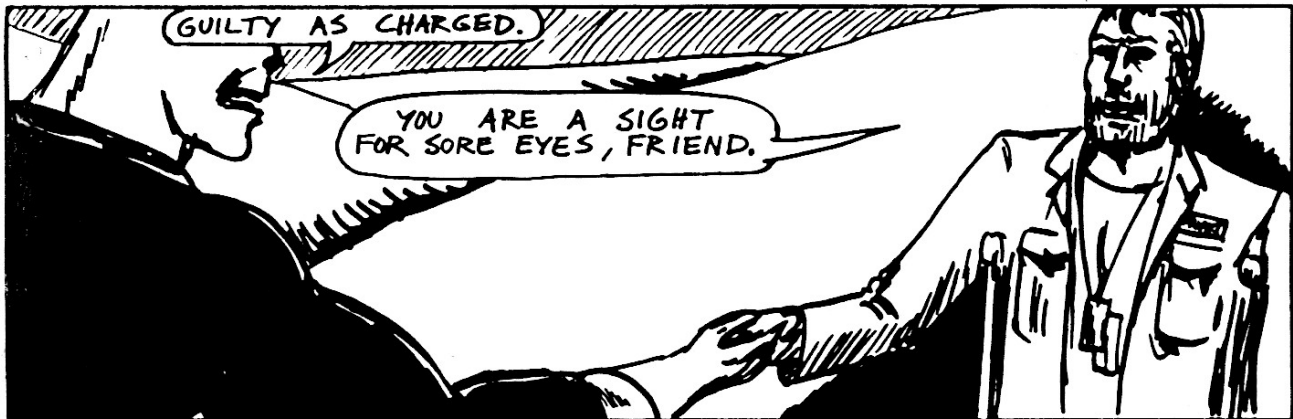
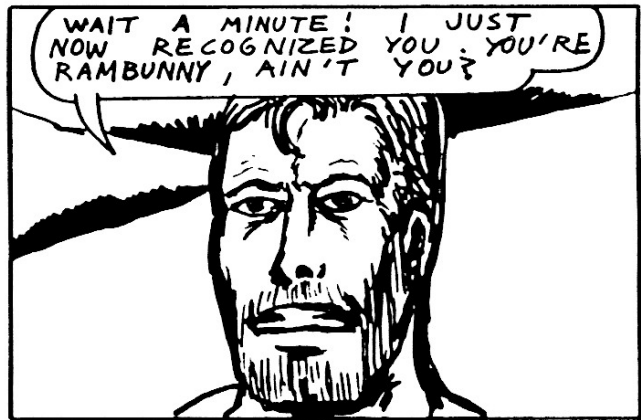


# RAMBUNNY IN NOMADS

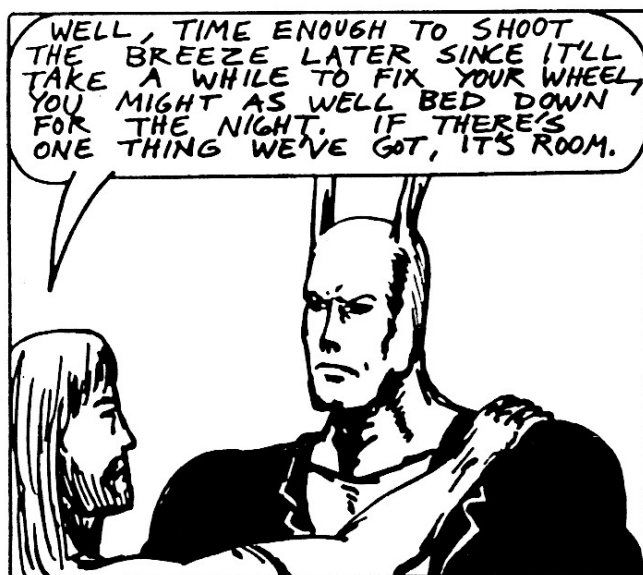
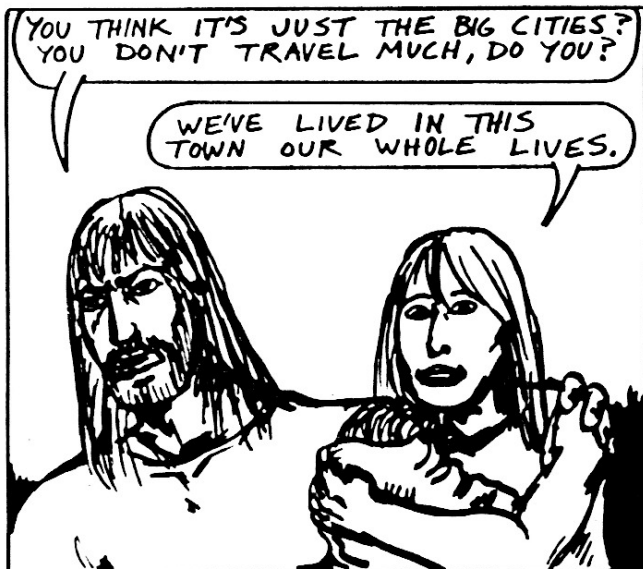
WRITTEN BY TROY HICKMAN / DRAWN BY DOUG LUMLEY

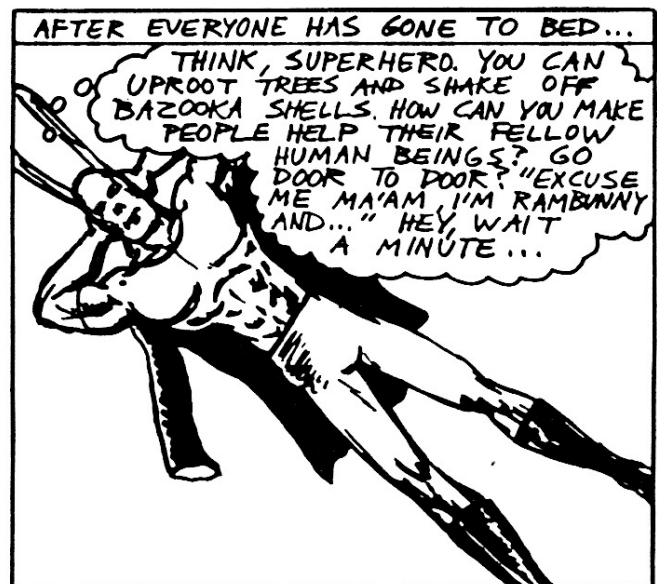
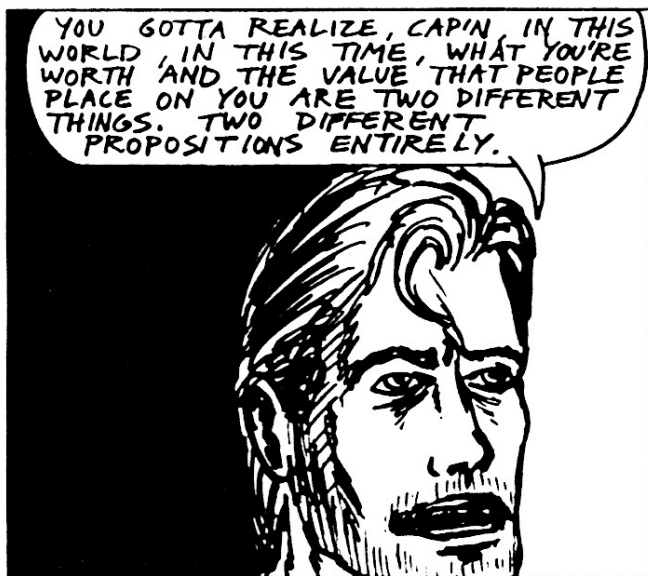
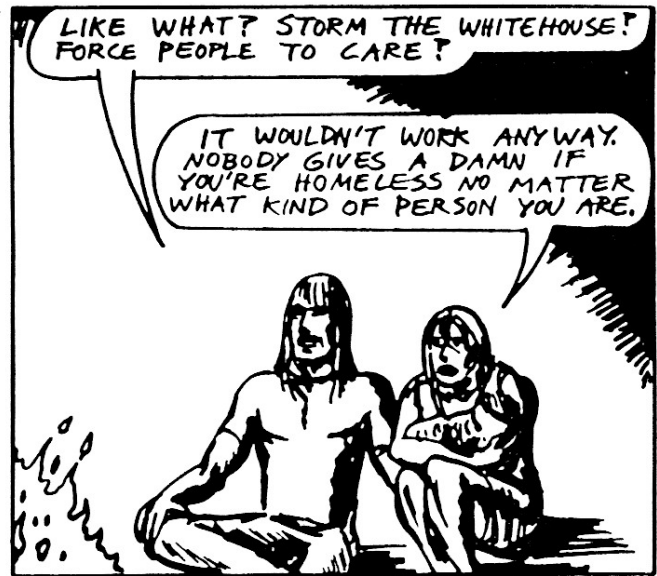




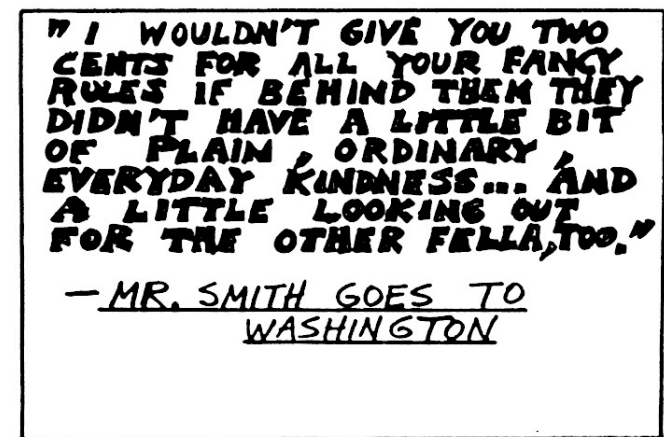
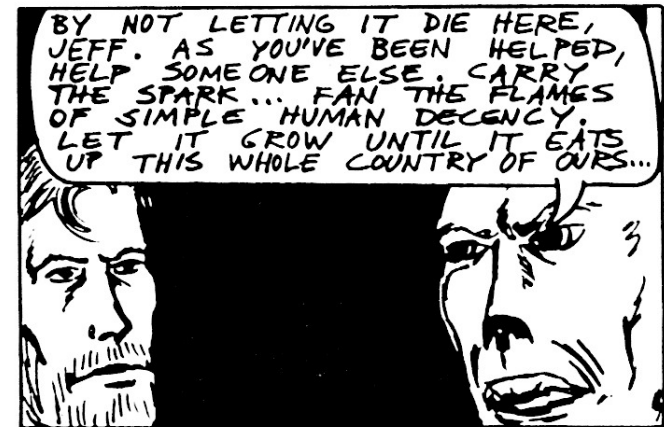
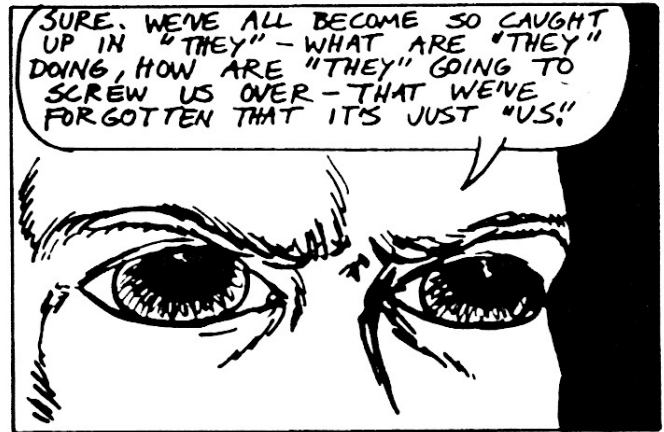




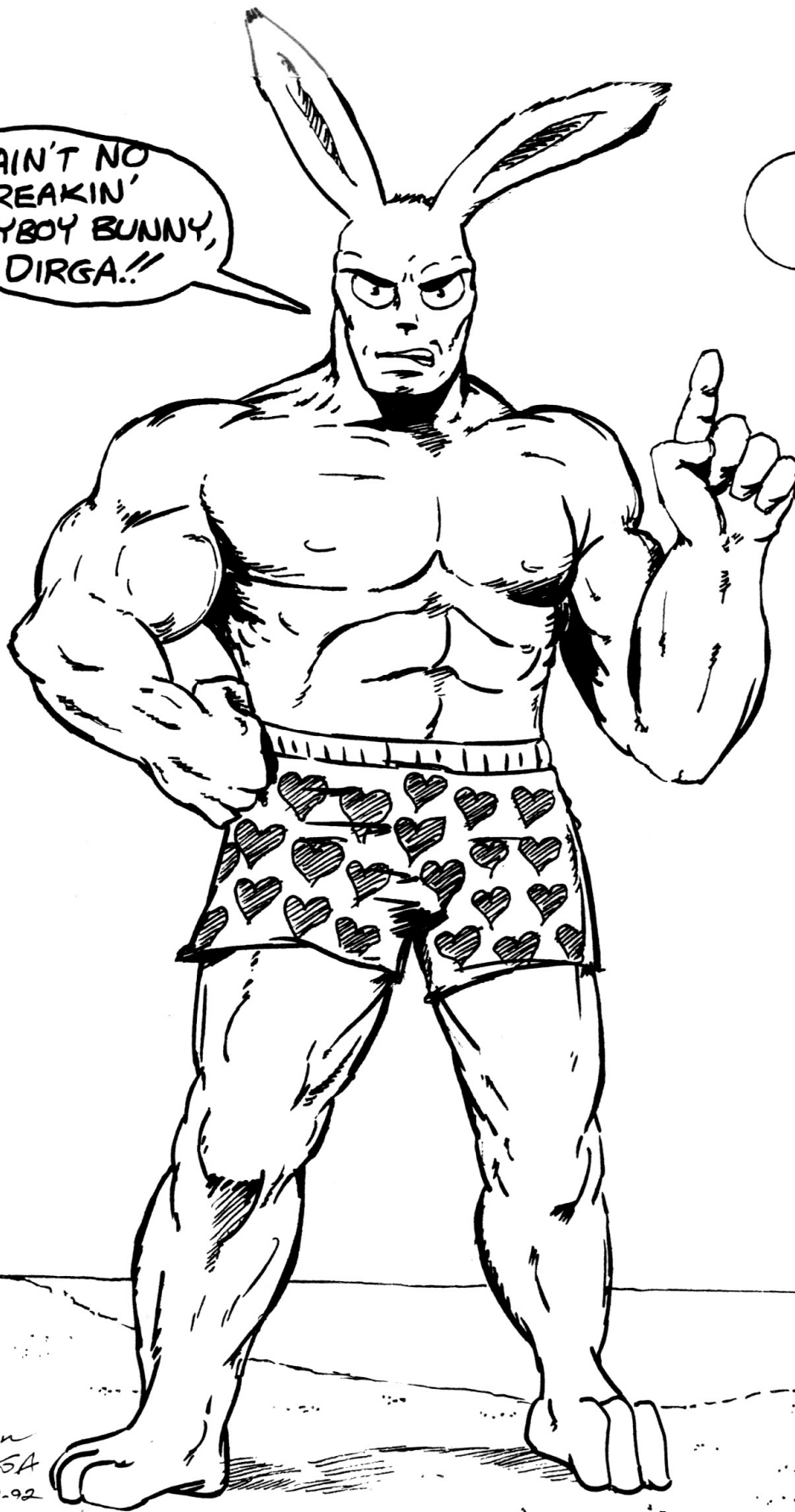








I AIN'T NO  
FREAKIN'  
PLAYBOY BUNNY,  
DIRGA!!

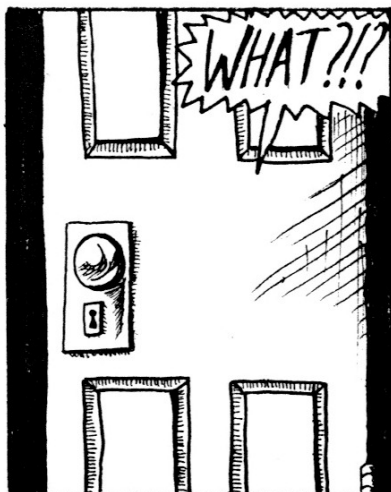


For Lynn  
DIRGA  
10-1-92

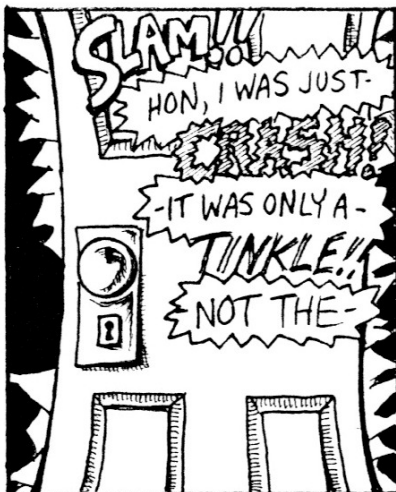




Dave Berns



WHAT???



SLAM!!

HON, I WAS JUST-

-IT WAS ONLY A-

TINKLE!!

NOT THE-



--DOOR--

The politically incorrect superhero!

NINJA ANT

STARRING IN:



LET US GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT, MITSU.

YES, WE ARE "SEEING" EACH OTHER AGAIN.

"LOVE'S TENDER FLAMES"

or

"THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT, UH HUH UH HUH"

Written and pencilled by Nik Dirga

Inked by John Hurley

AND YES, I USUALLY ENJOY YOUR COMPANY.

BUT IF YOU EVER, EVER CALL ME "THE MAIN FILLY IN YOUR HERD" AROUND PRO AND THE OTHERS AGAIN, YOU'LL BE THE FIRST SUPERHERO EUNUCH, GET ME?



: YEESH:

YES, KYOKO.

LOOK, LEMME MAKE IT UP TO YOU. I'LL COOK YOU DINNER TONIGHT, SWEETIE!



YOU COOK?

SURE! I CAN FRY AN EGG ROLL LIKE NO ONE ELSE!

I'M SURE YOU CAN.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?

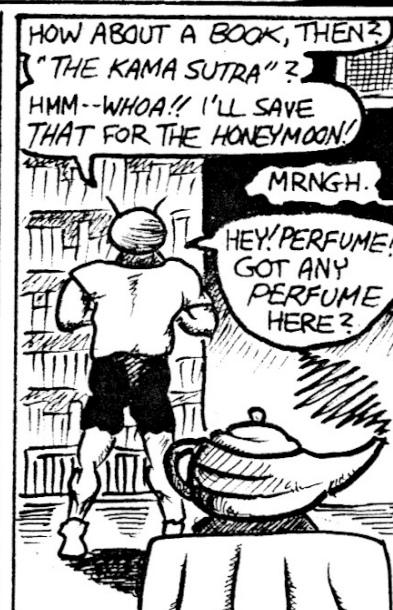
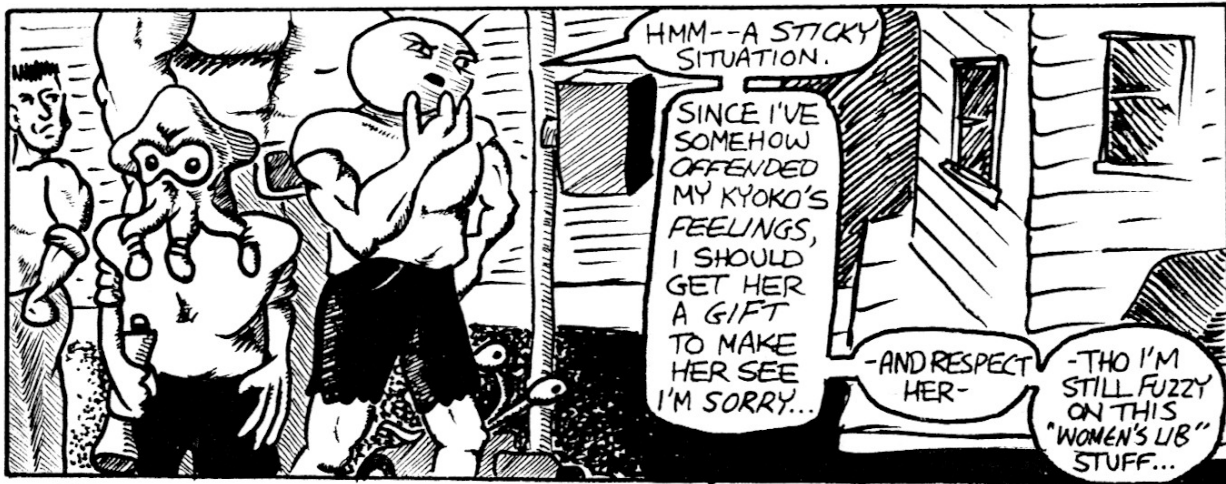
WELL... OK.

THAT'S MY LITTLE FILLY!

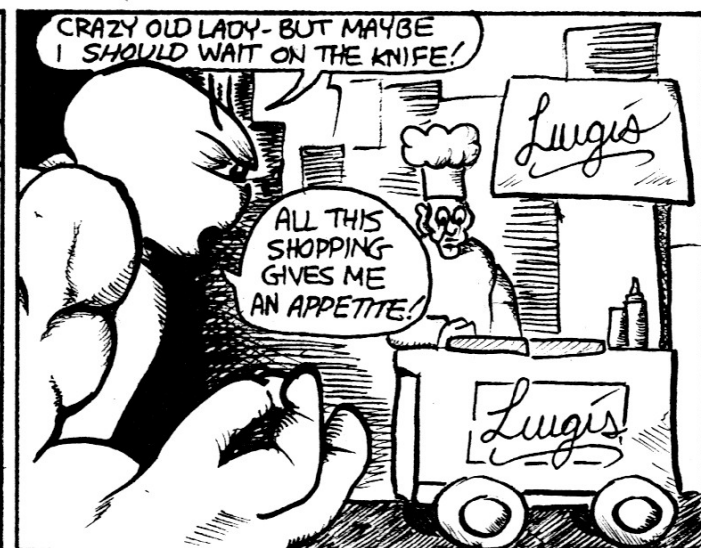


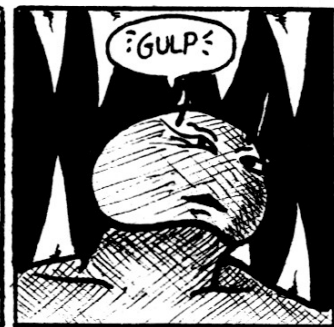
WHAM!!

SHE'S JUST GONNA HAVE TO WORK ON THAT ATTITUDE...  
...urgh...

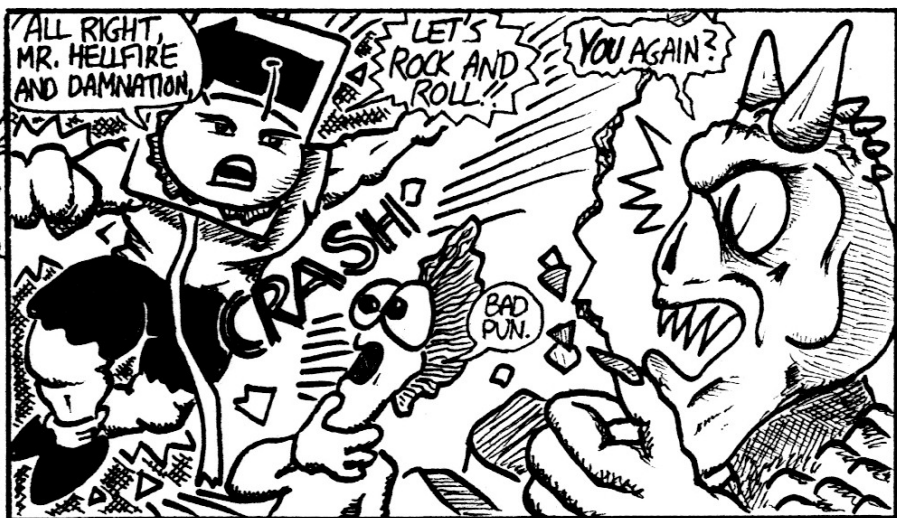
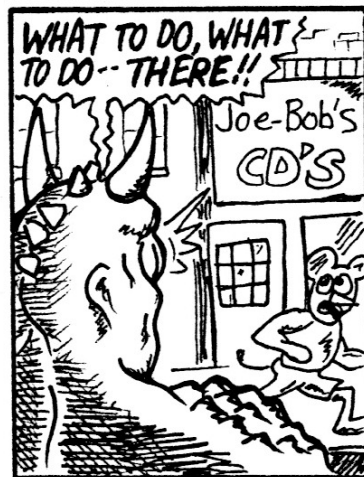


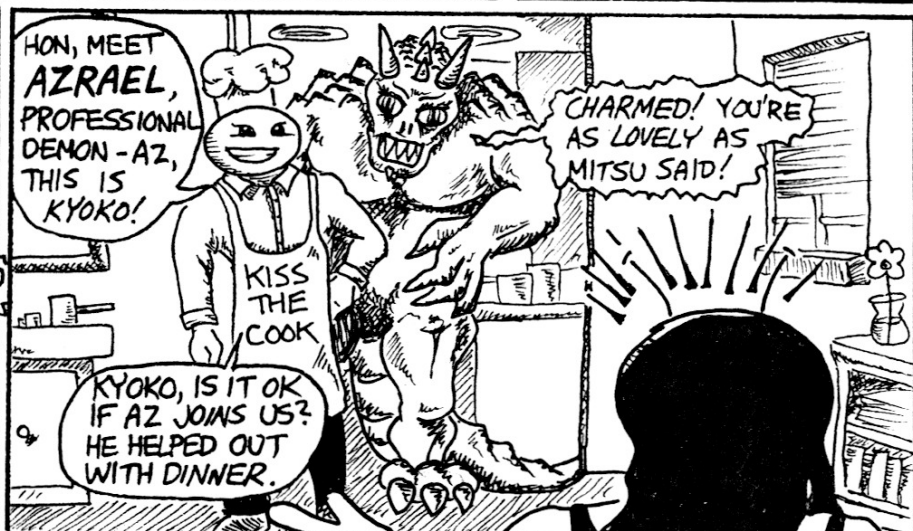


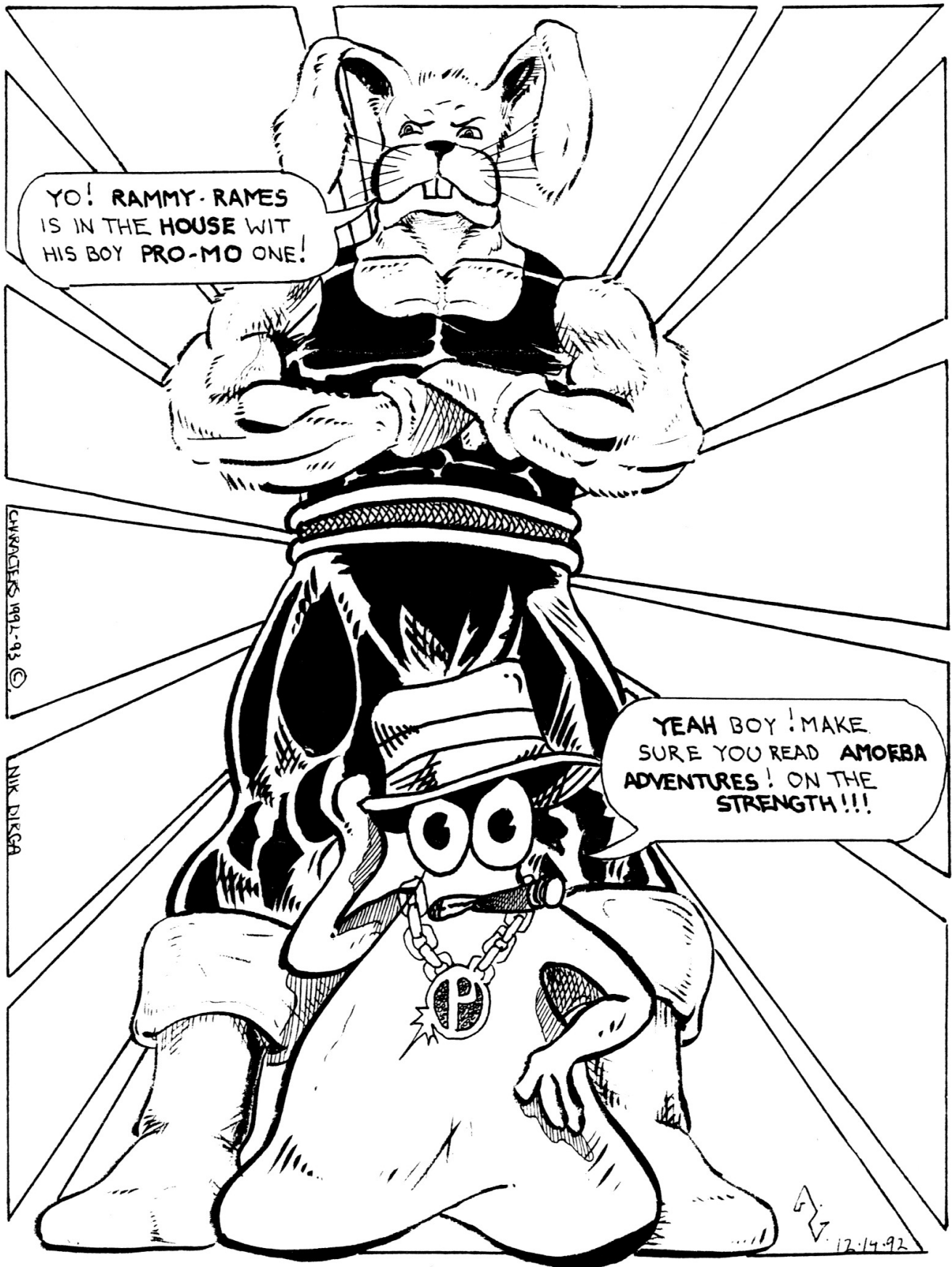












YO! RAMMY-RAMES  
IS IN THE HOUSE WIT  
HIS BOY PRO-MO ONE!

YEAH BOY! MAKE  
SURE YOU READ AMORBA  
ADVENTURES! ON THE  
STRENGTH!!!



# THE ALIEN DUDE WHO STOLE SPIF'S BRAIN!

written, drawn, etc.

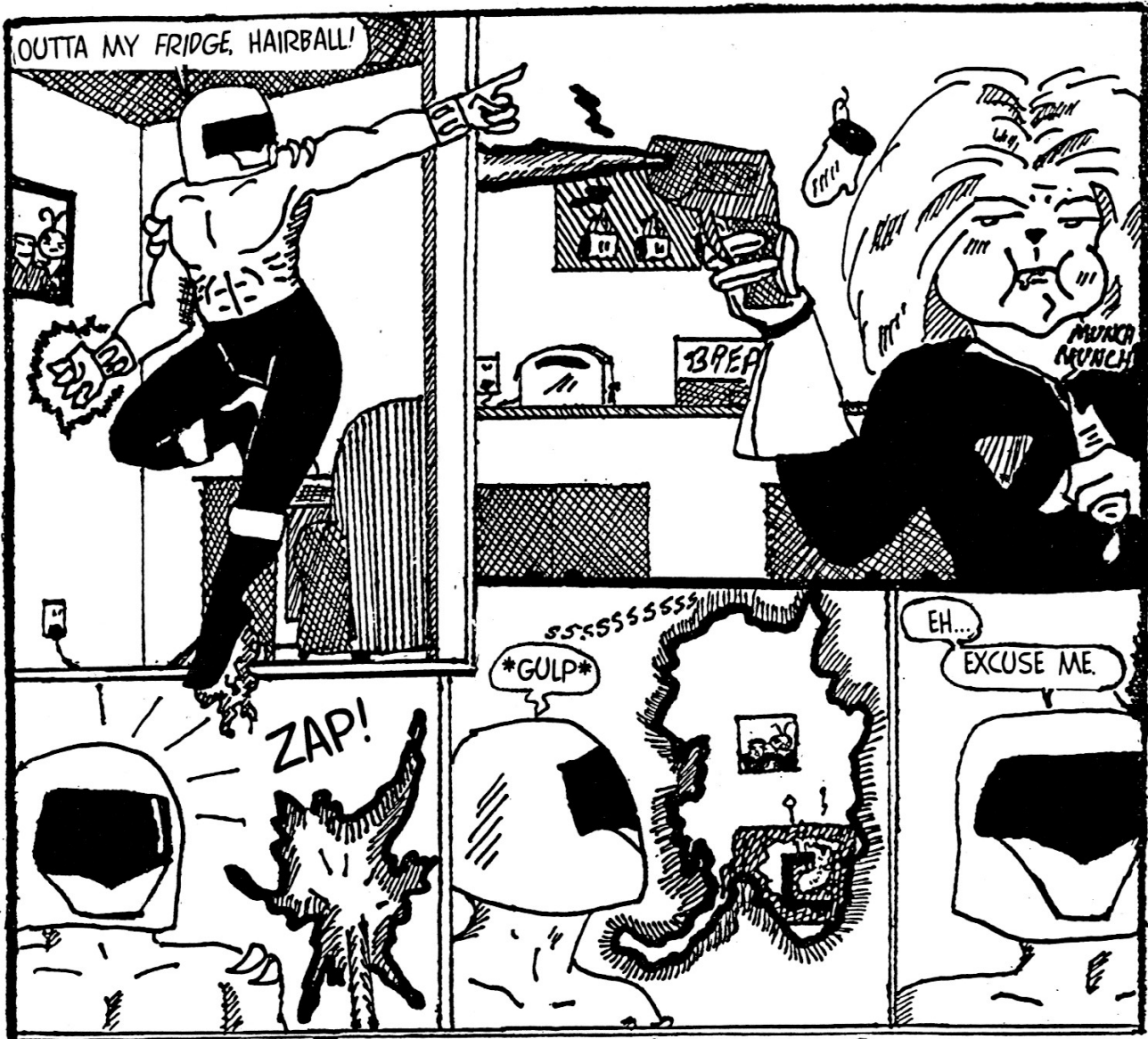
by Lynn Allen

nifty computer-type lettering by Nik.





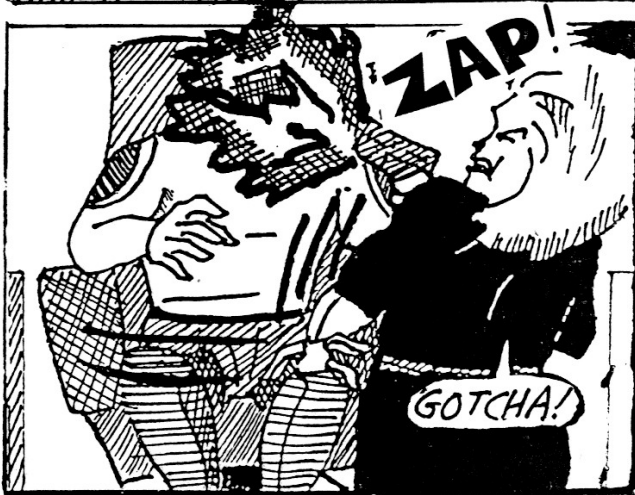
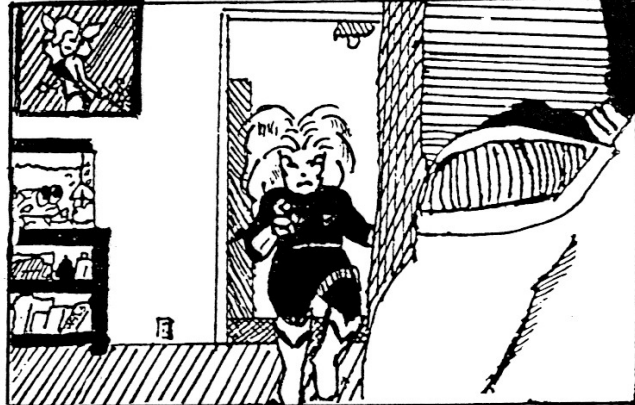
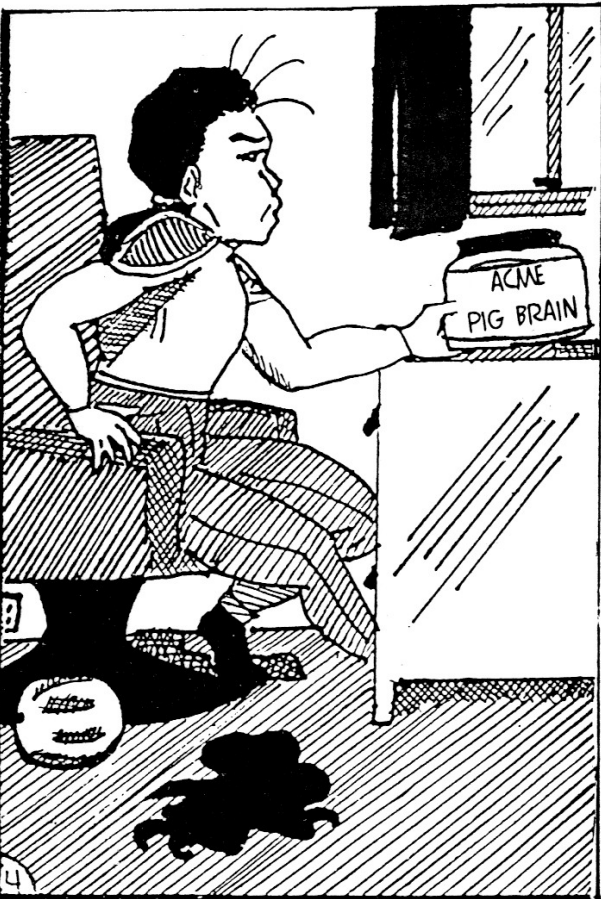
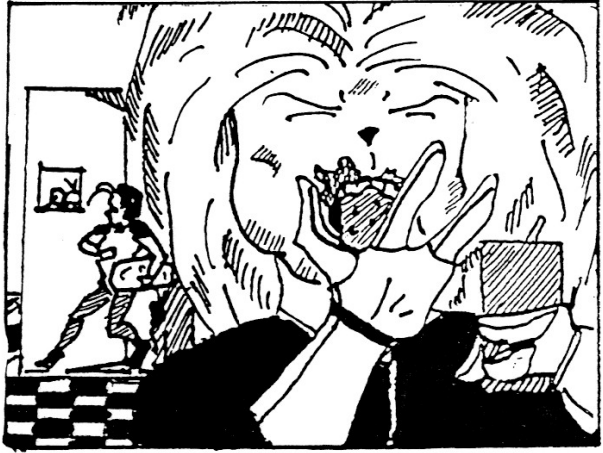
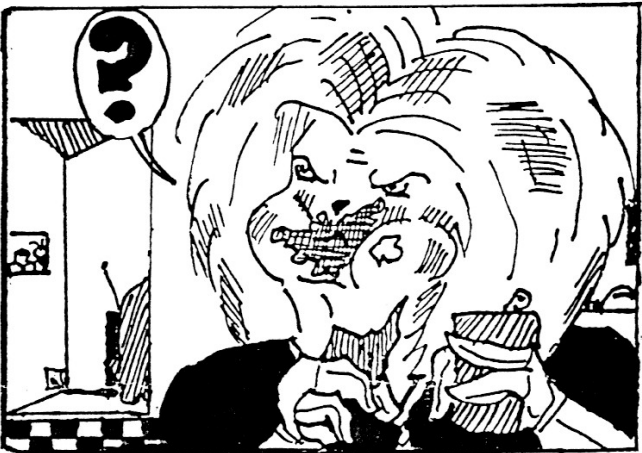
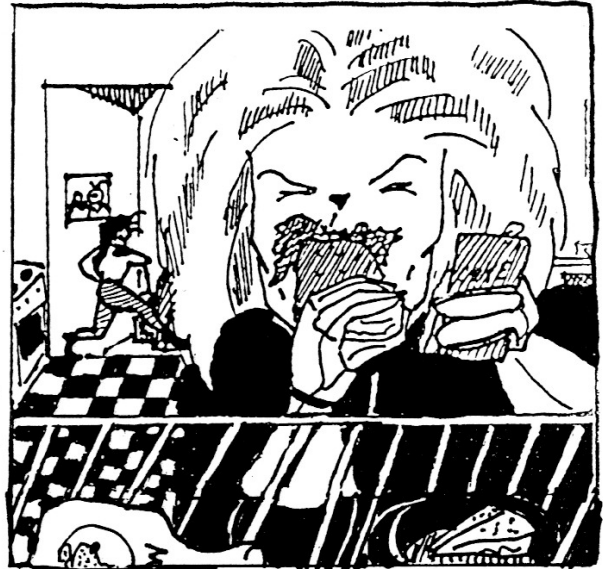


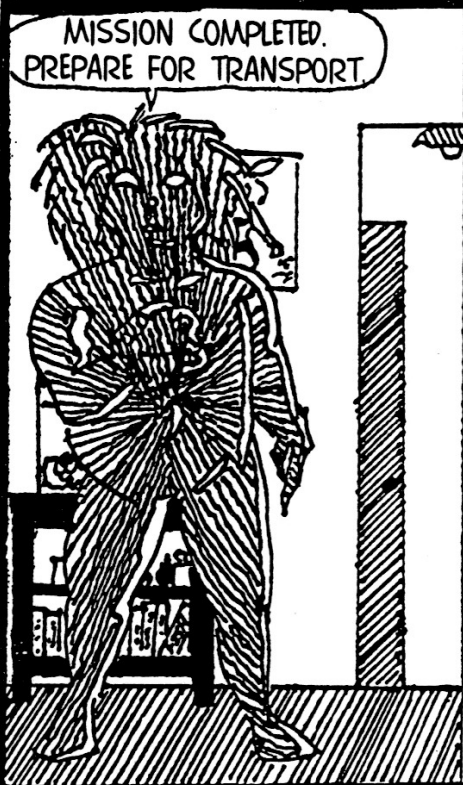
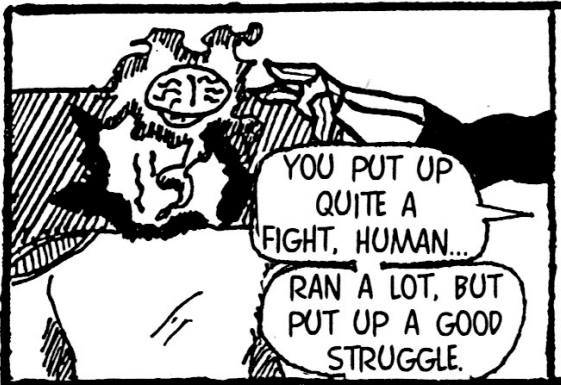


AAAAAUUUUU GGGG

The text "AAAAAUUUUU GGGG" is written in a large, stylized font across the middle of the page. Below the text, there is a small illustration of a character lying on the ground, looking up at the text.









RAOUL, THE  
BOY COCKROACH, DOING  
THAT "MCFARLANE",  
THANG

RAOUL COPYRIGHT © NIK DIRA, 1993

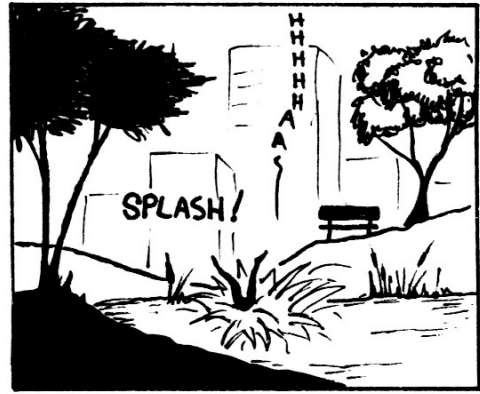
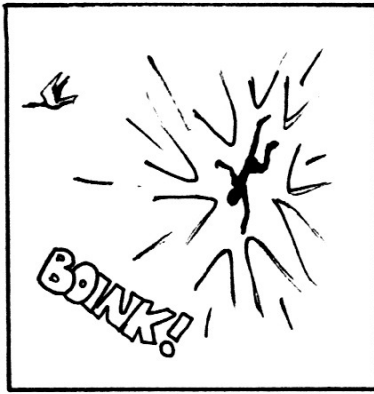
Jason Marcy



"Doc SAPHIRE" © Paul Quinn. 1993  
"PROMETHEUS" AND "RAOUL" © NIK  
DIRGA.



Paul Quinn

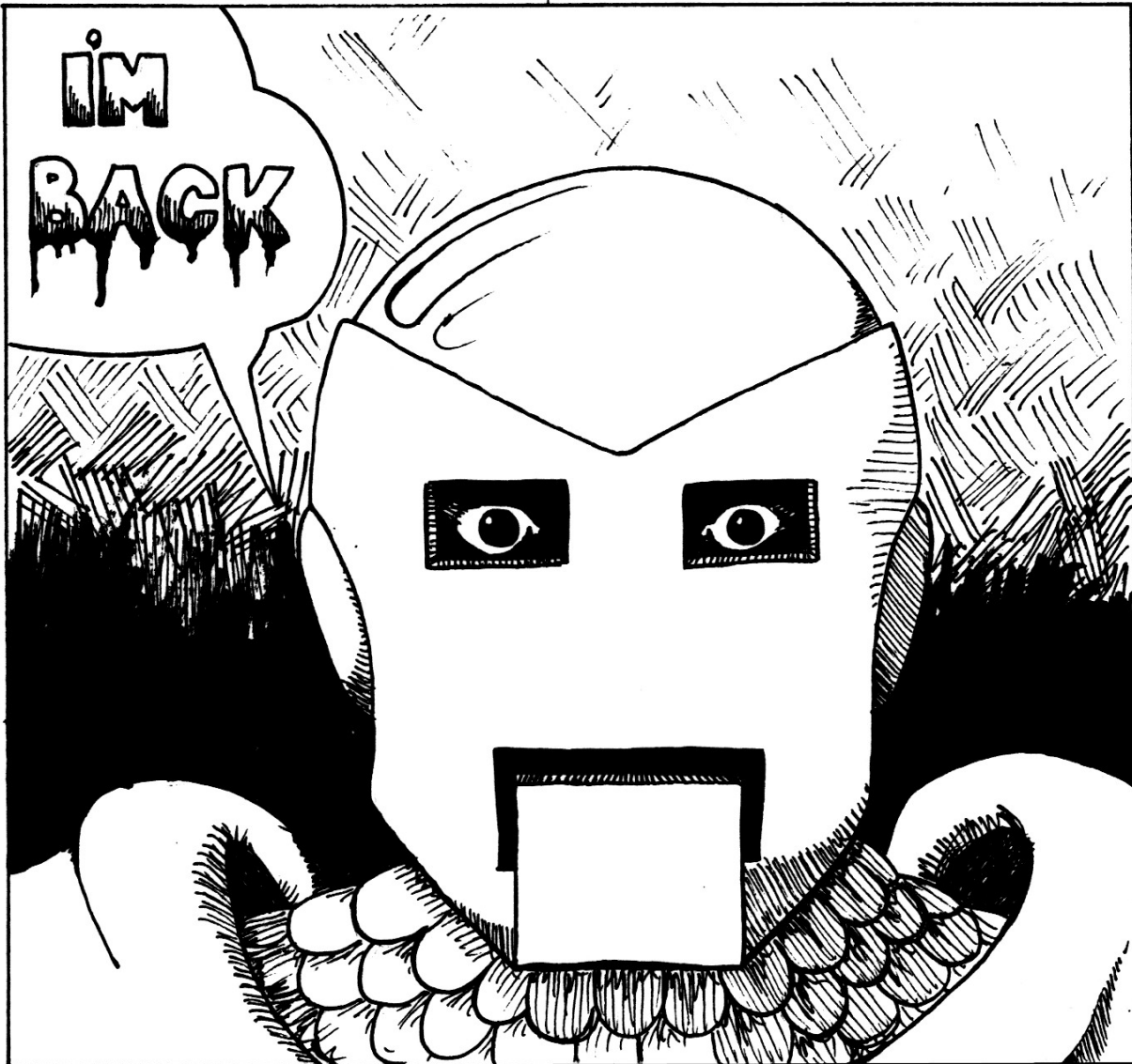


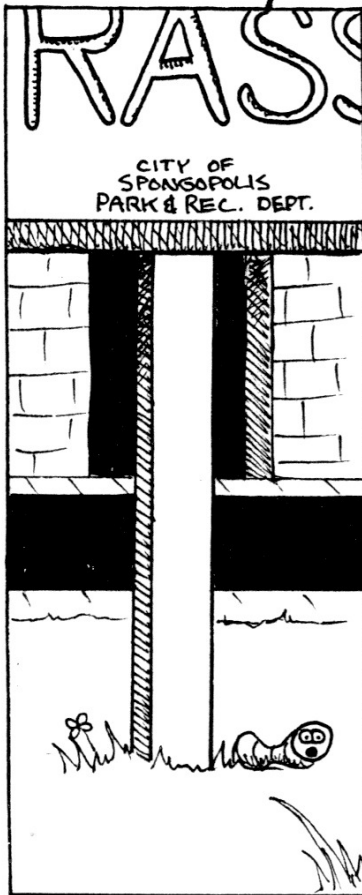
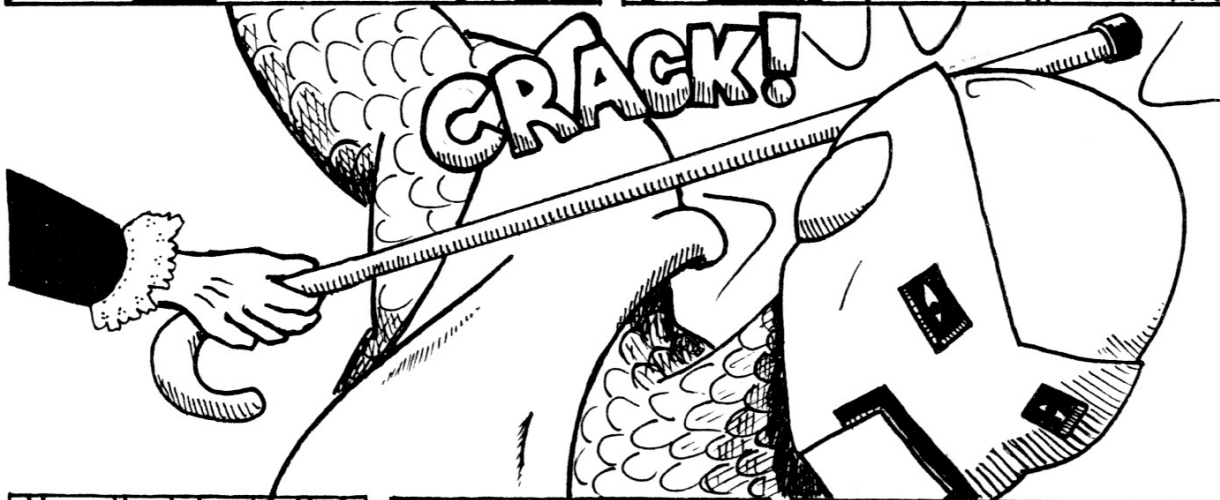
# HERR HEINOUS

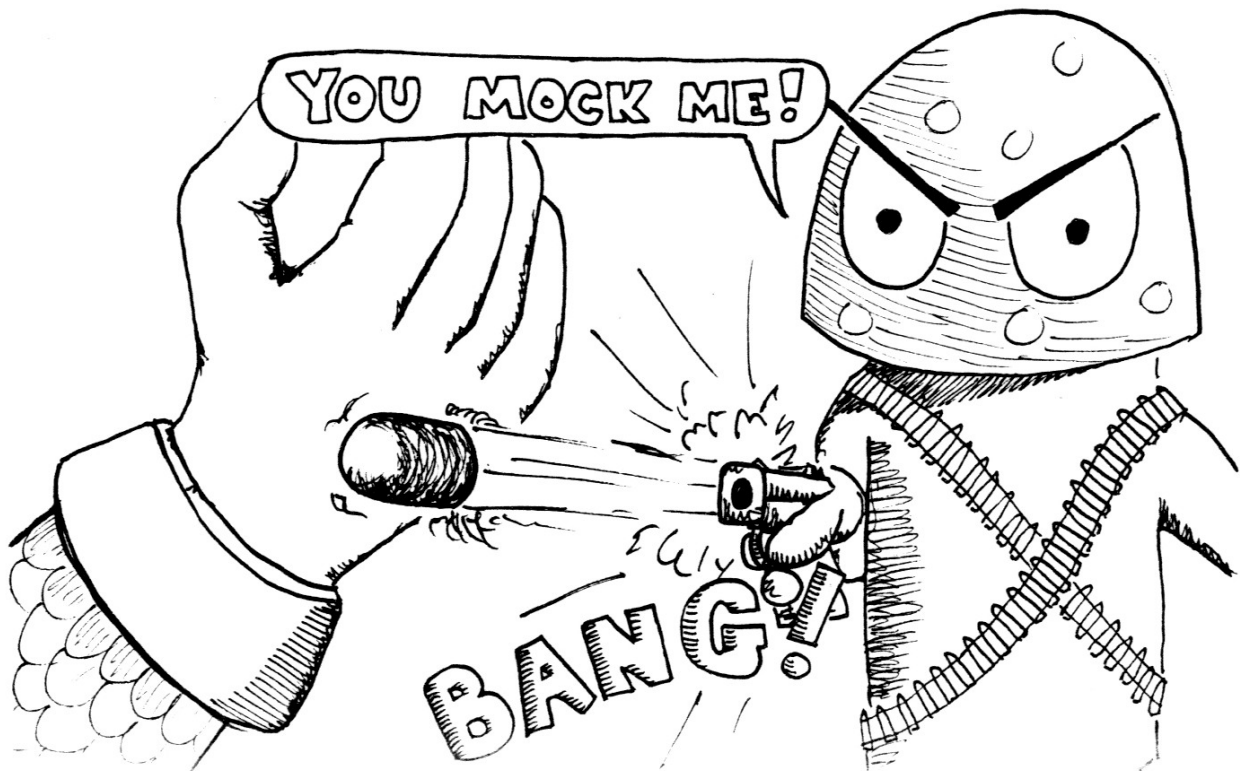
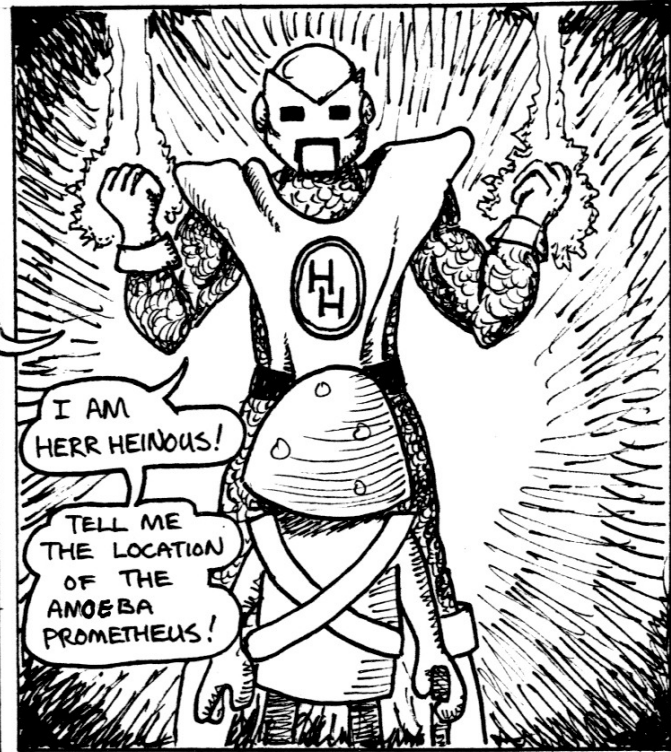
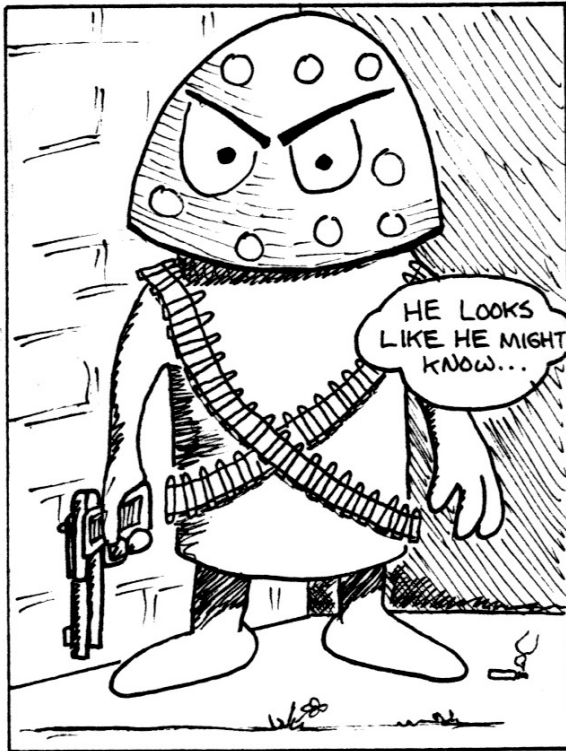
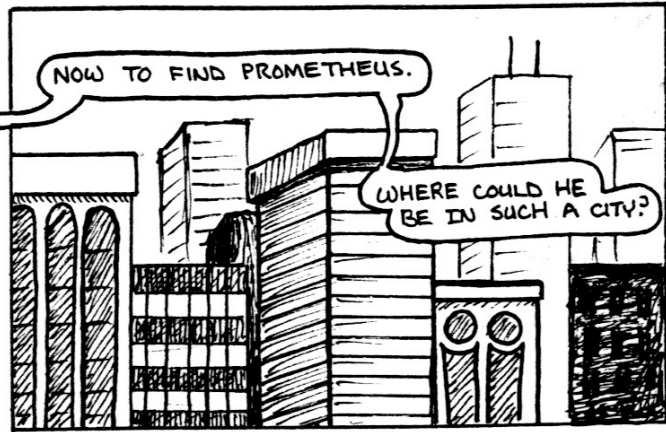
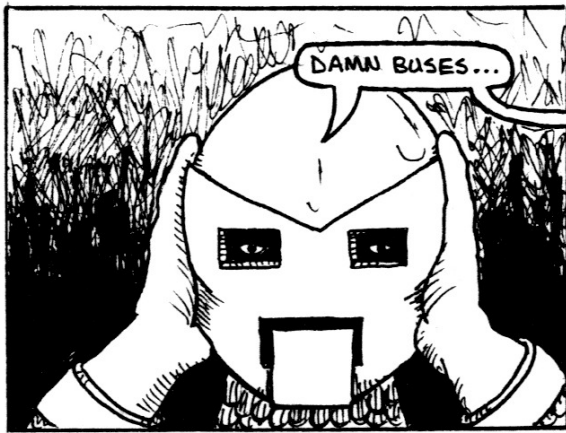
RETURNS

WRITTEN, LETTERED  
& DRAWN BY  
JOHN HURLEY

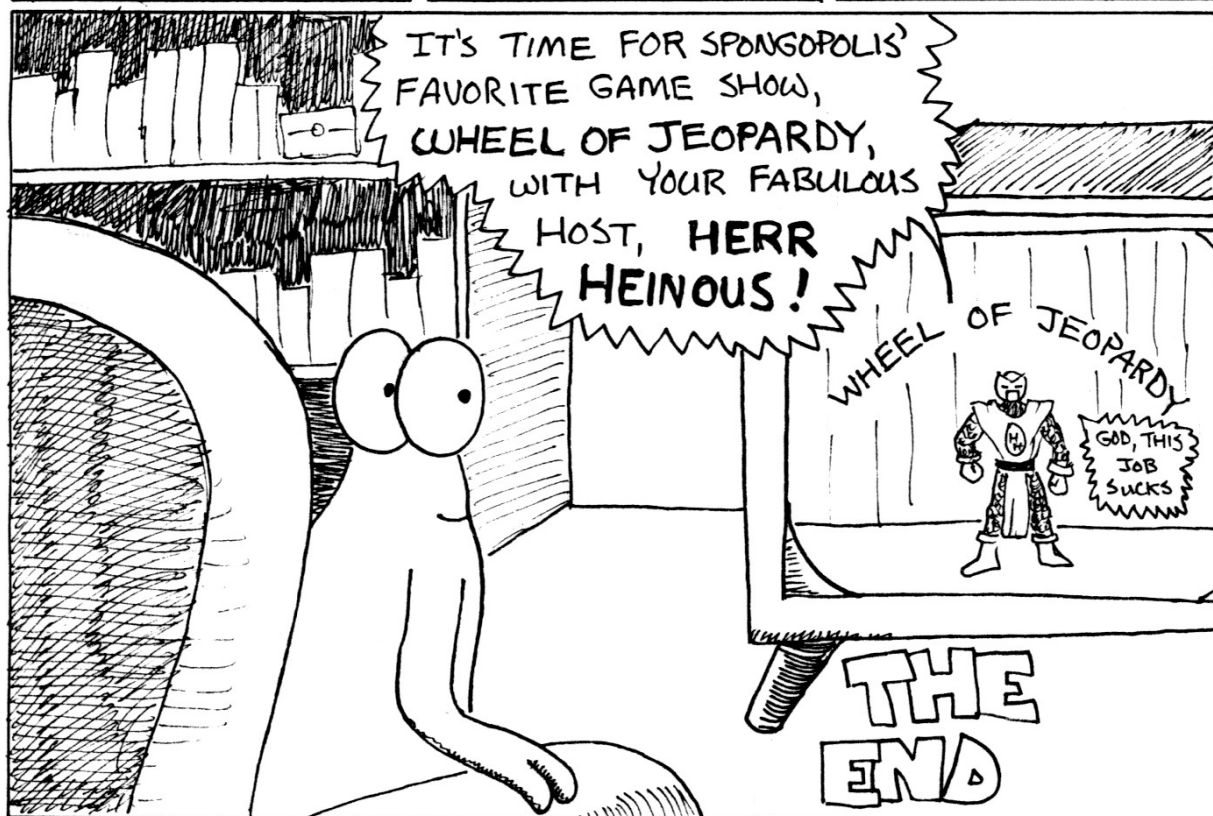
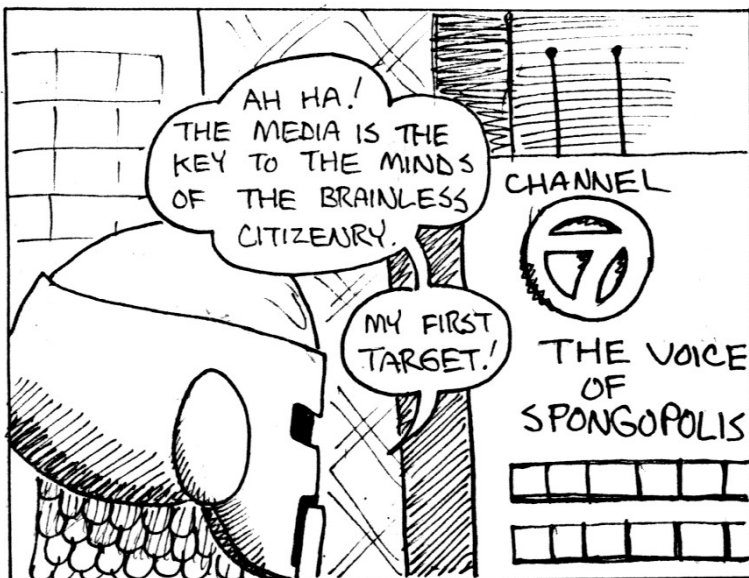
\*CRAUGH\*  
\*GRASP!\*











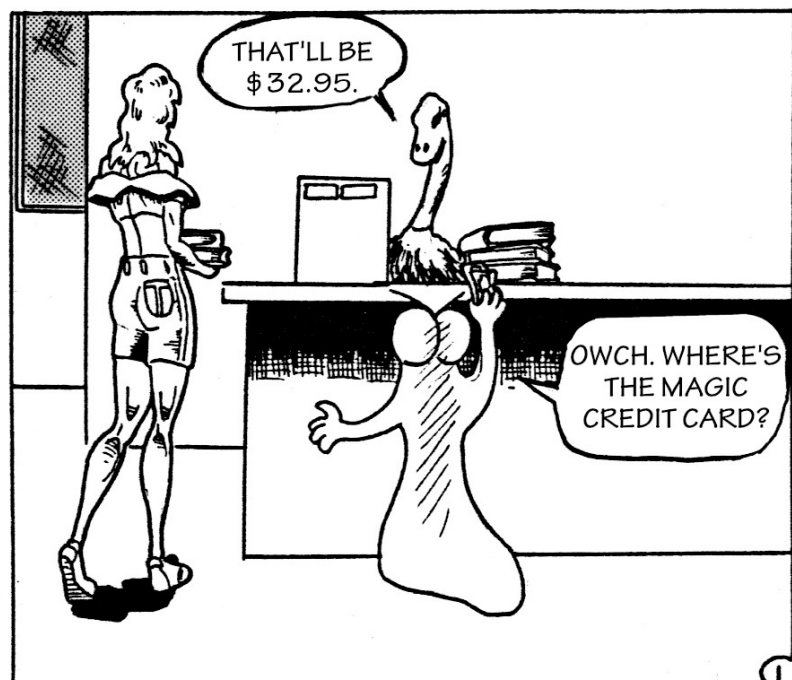
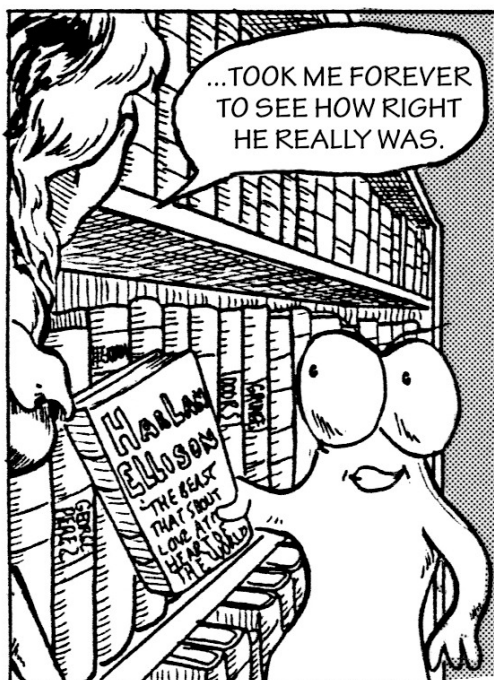
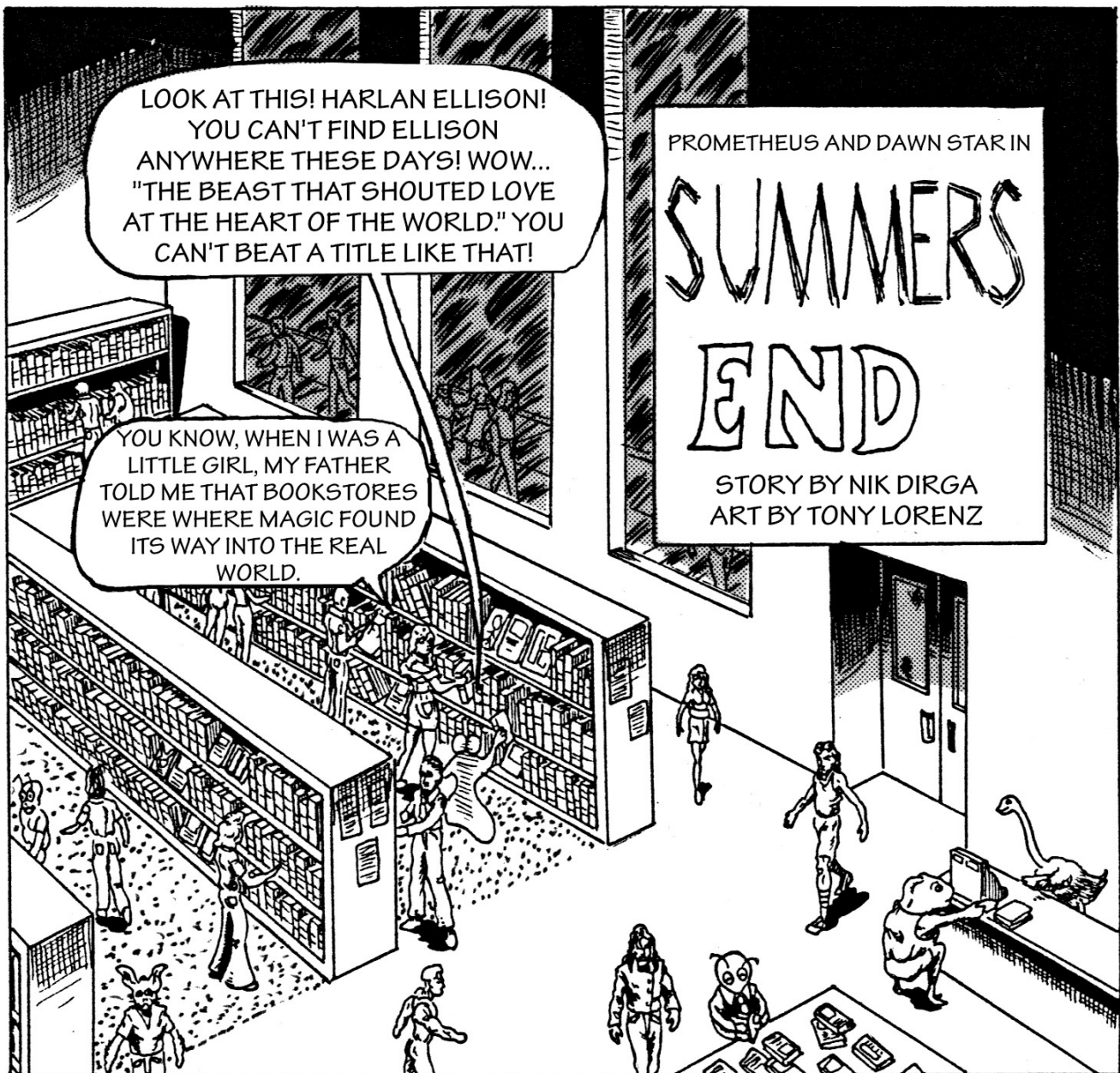


NIBERT

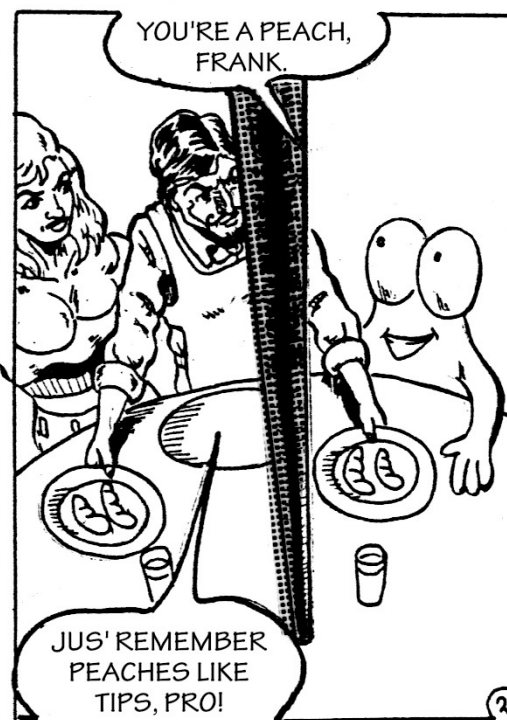
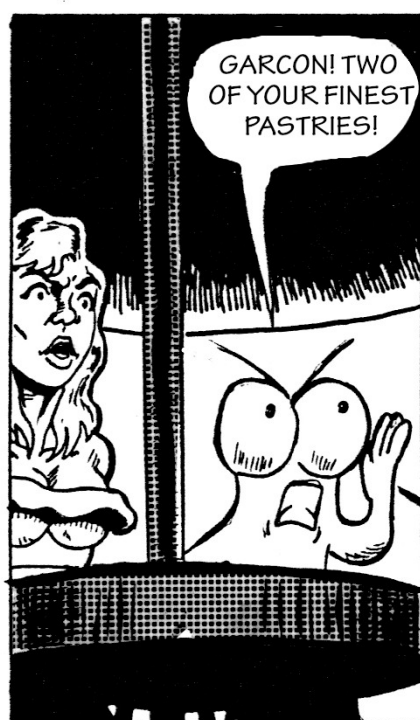
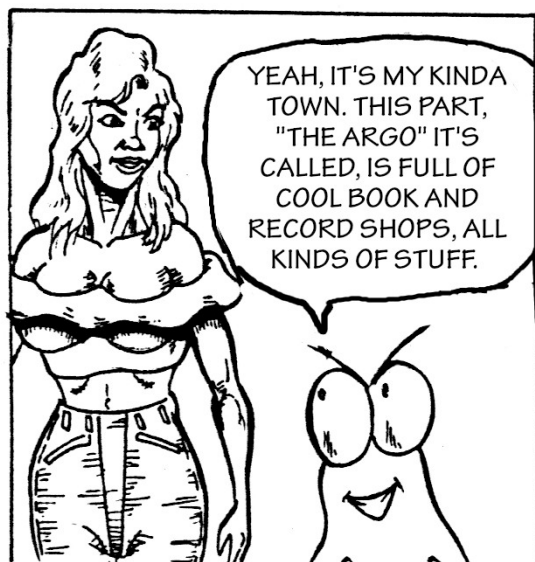
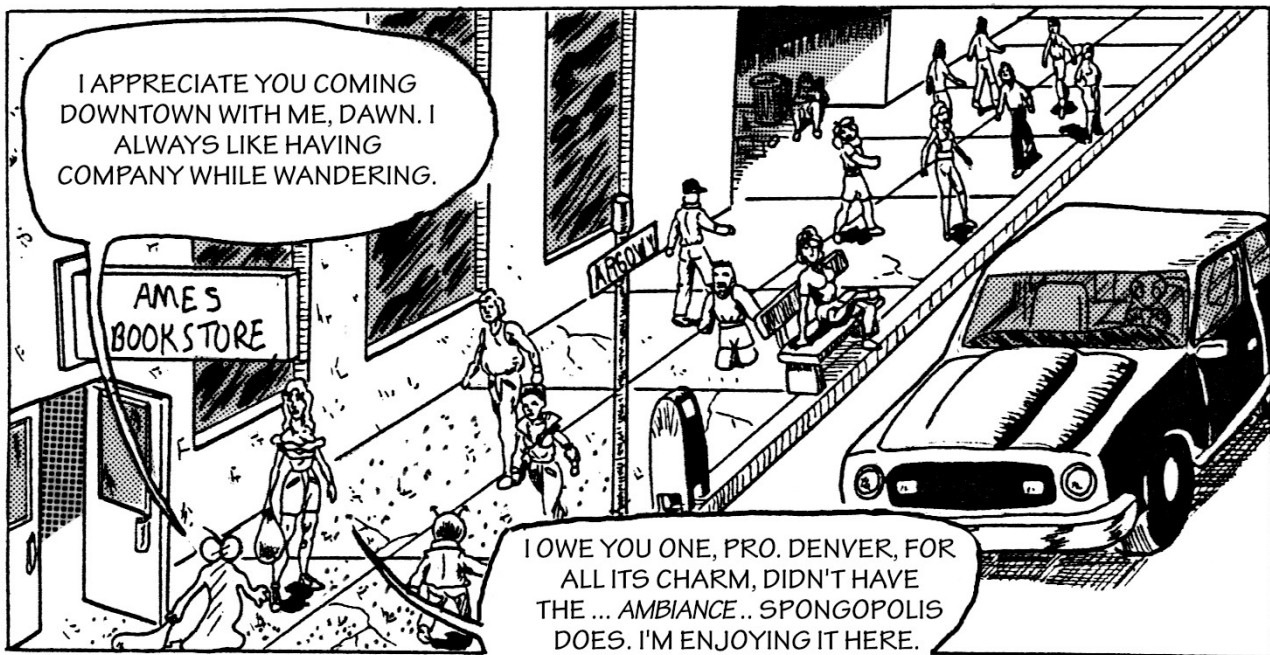
The original cover to 1992's PROMETHEUS:  
THE SILENT STORM, by Larry Nibert.

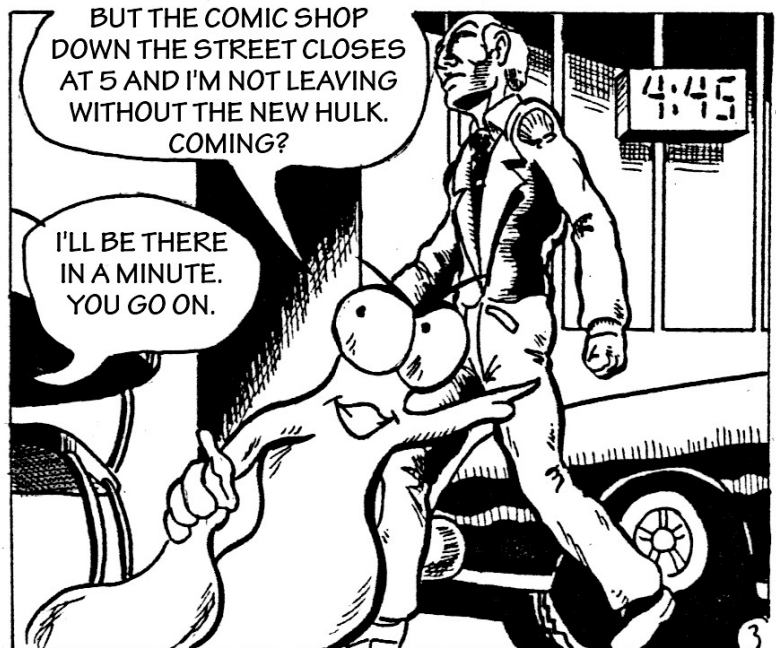
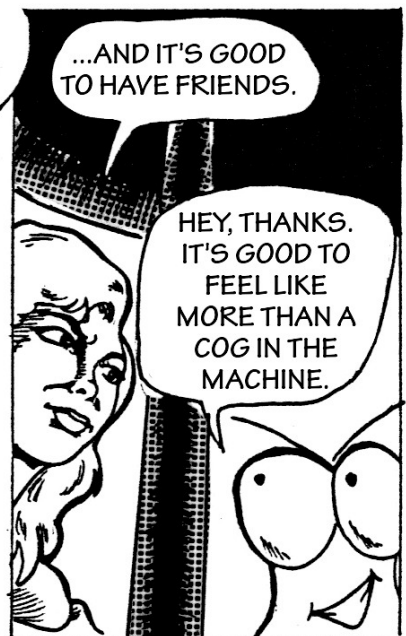
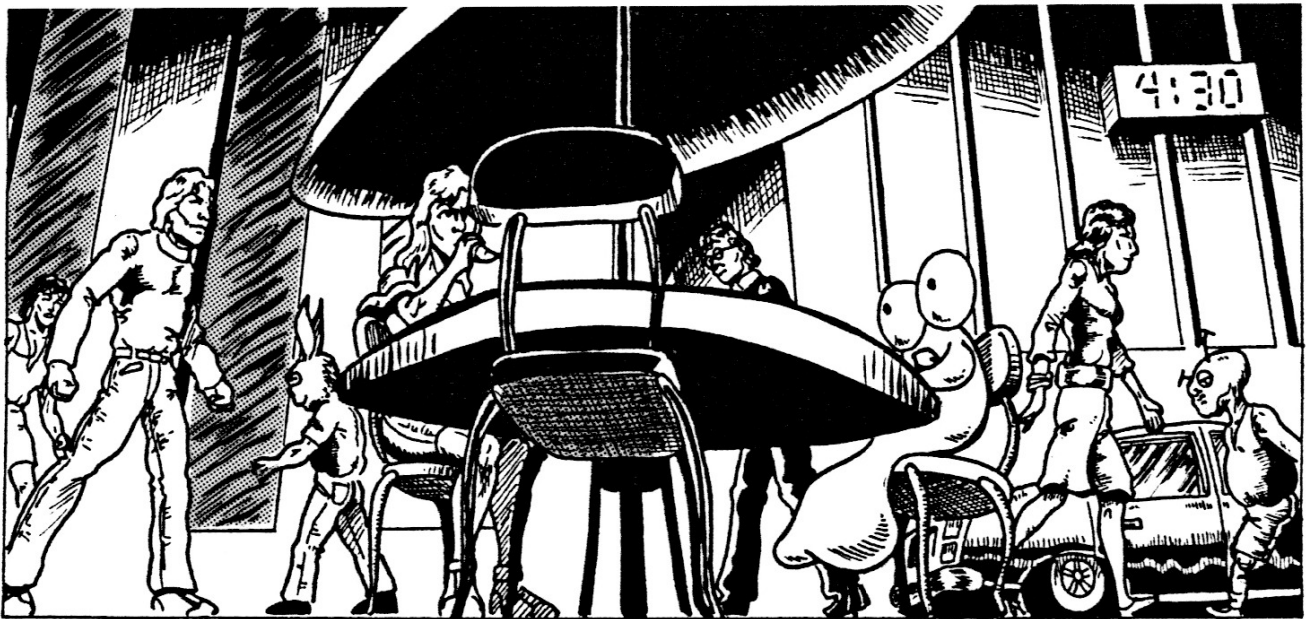


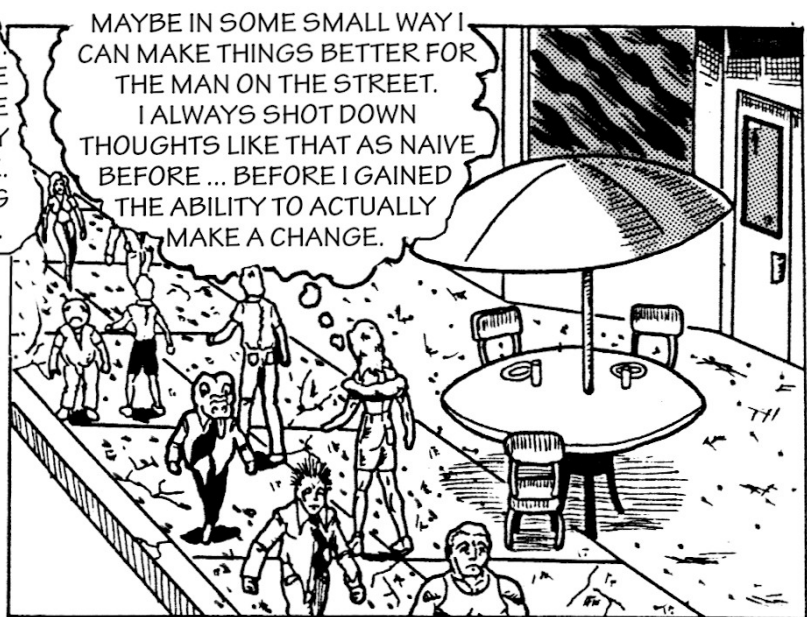
Max Ink







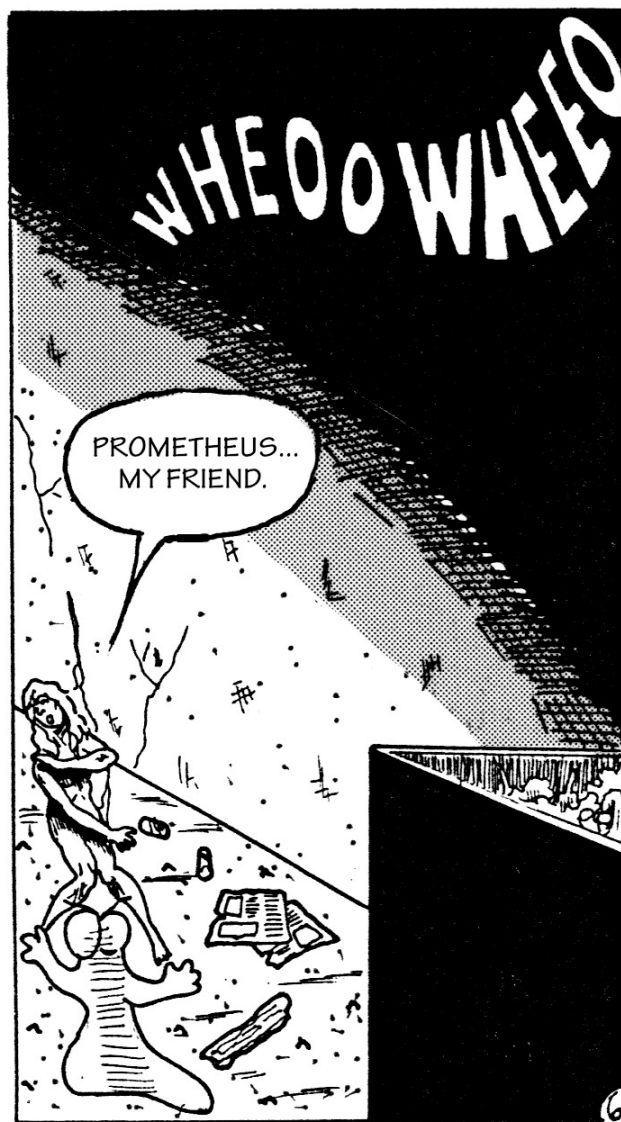
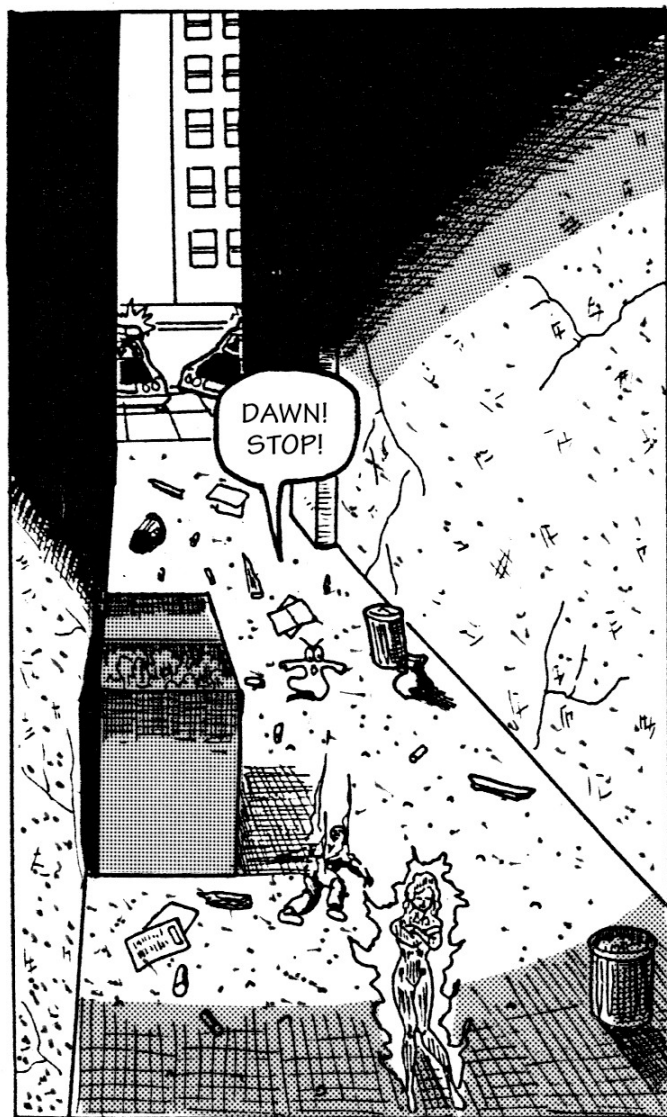






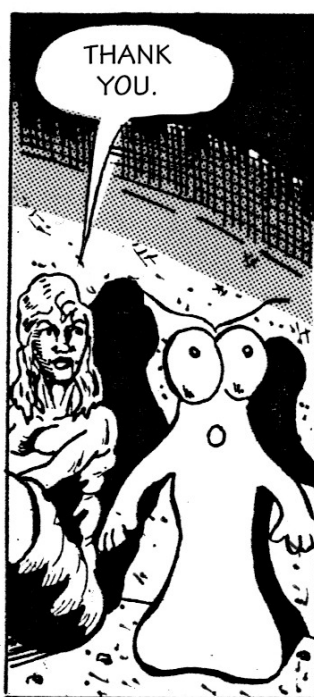
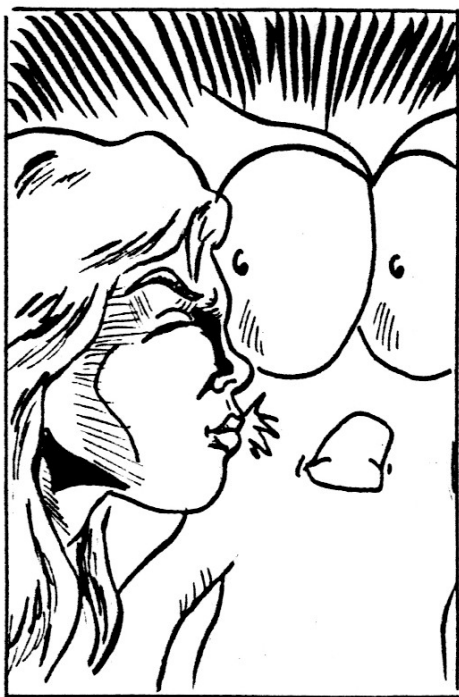
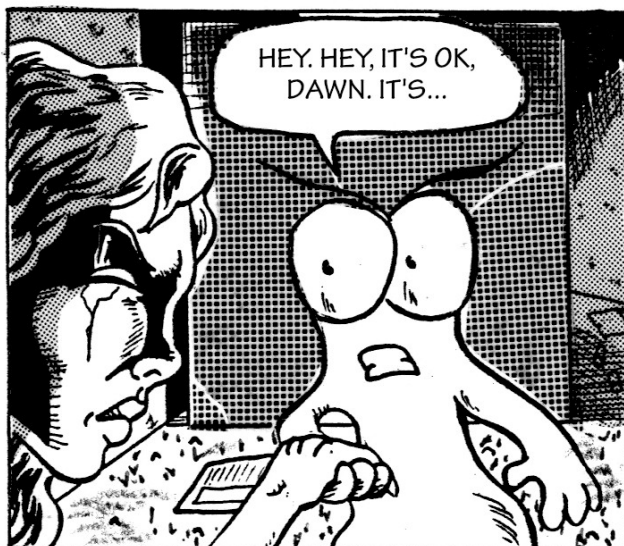


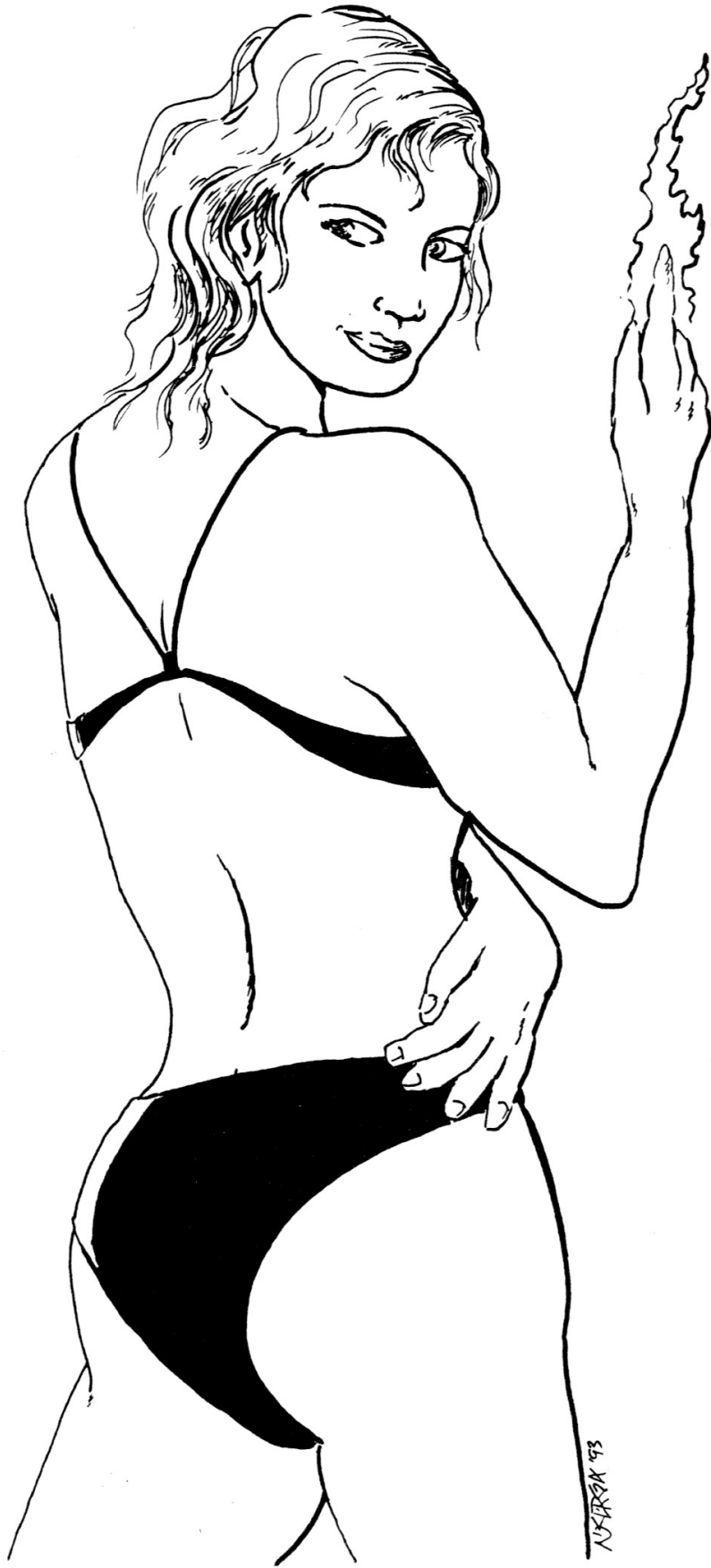






WHY... WHY... THE DAY WAS SO GOOD, PROMETHEUS. AND NOW IT'S ALL JUNK. WHY DID HE DO THAT?

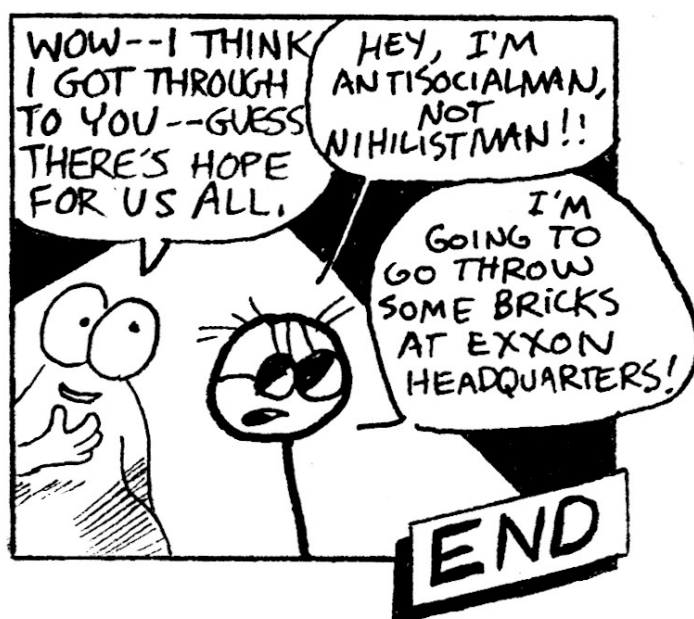
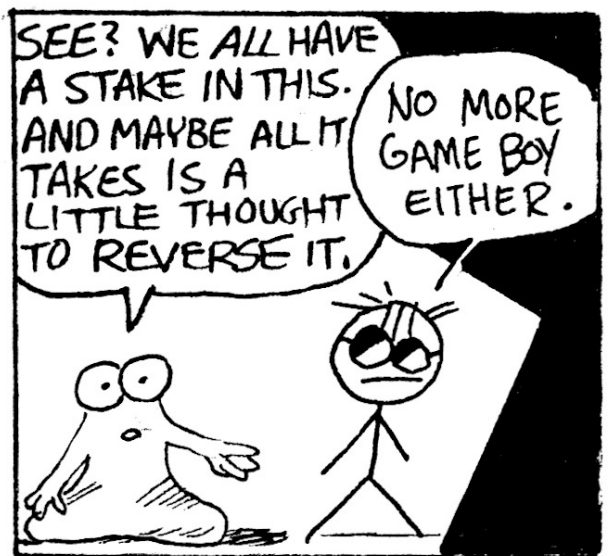
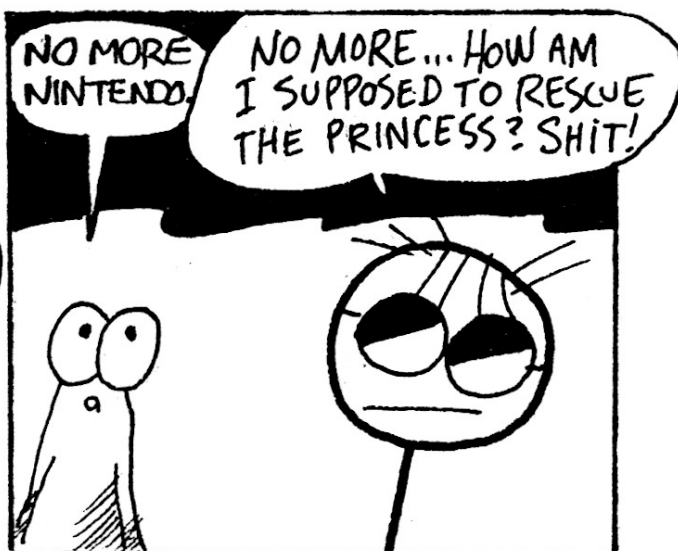




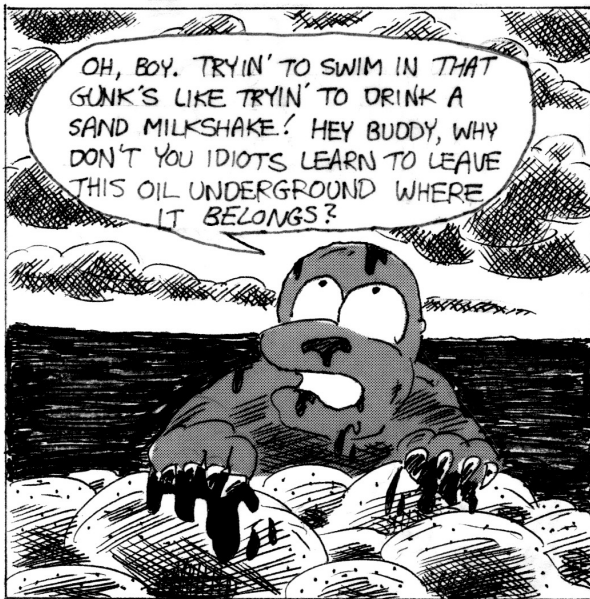
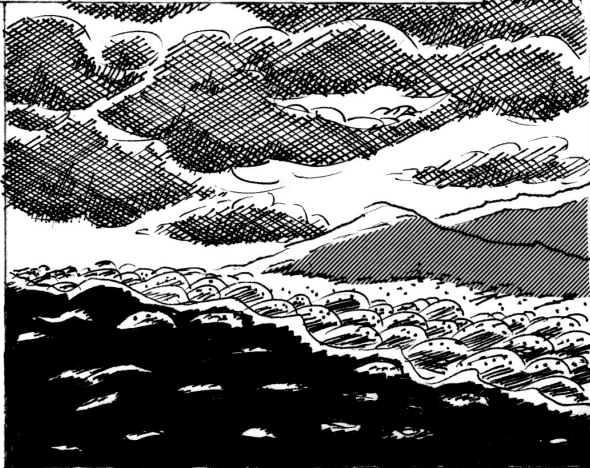
The OBNOXIOUS  
ANTI SOCIALMAN.®  
VERSUS  
PROMETHEUS  
THE PROTOPLASM™  
"CLASH OF TITANS!"\*  
\*ideologically, that is.  
by Nik Dirga & Matt Feazell







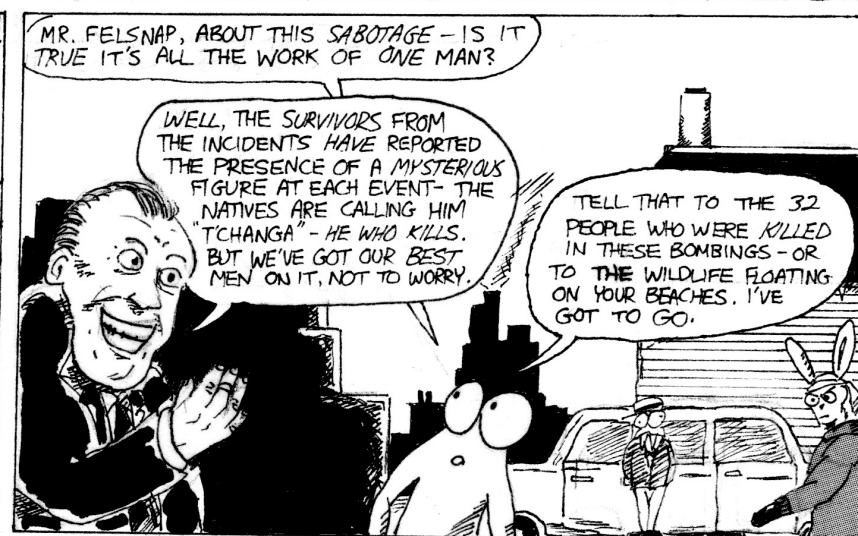
THE ALASKA COAST, TWO MONTHS AGO:



VALDEN, ALASKA. THIS MORNING.

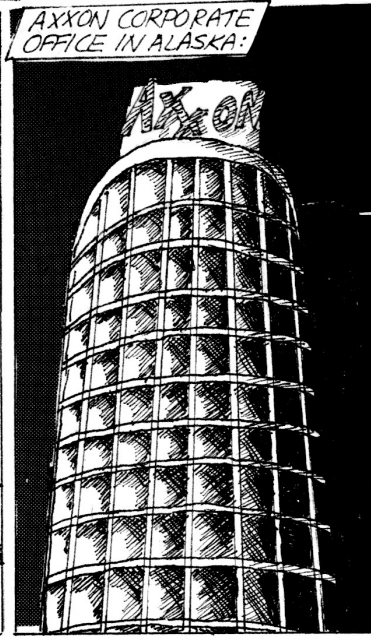
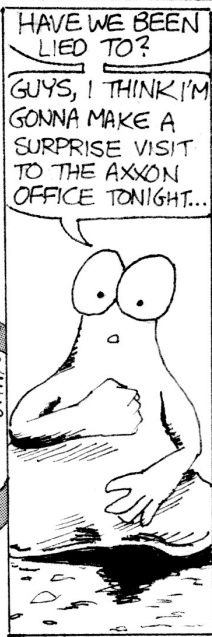


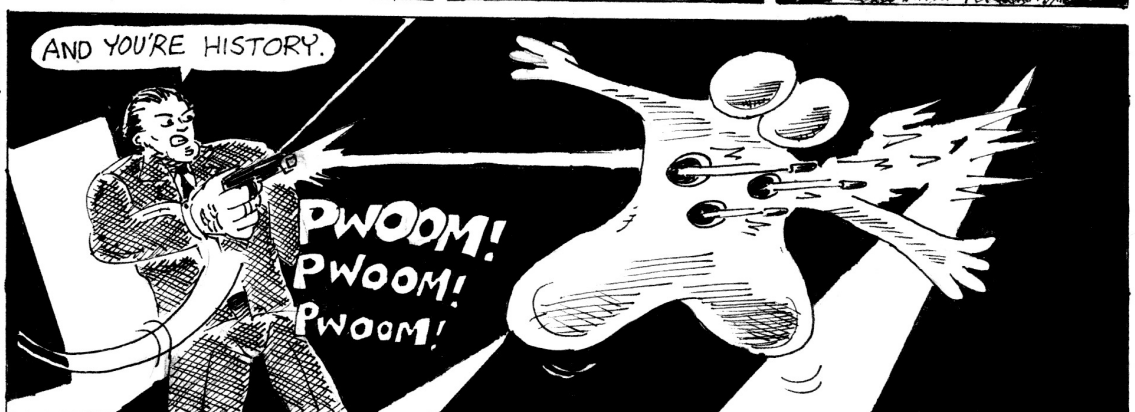
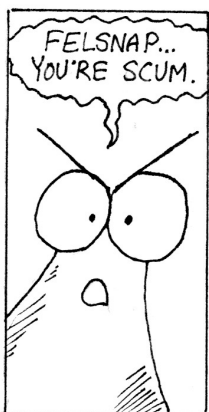
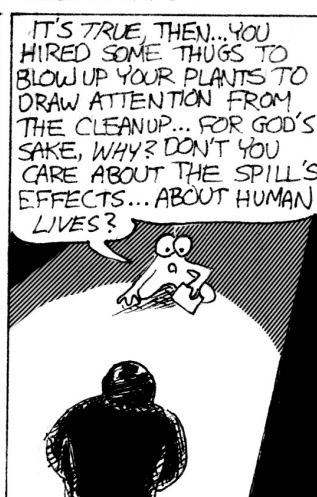
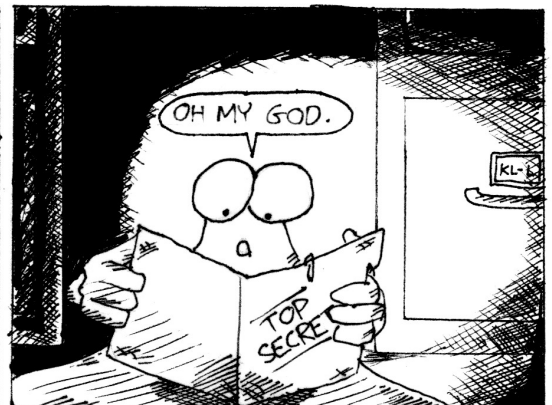
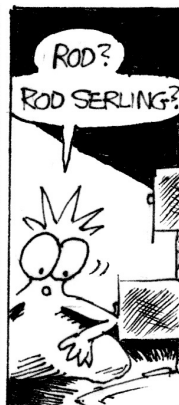
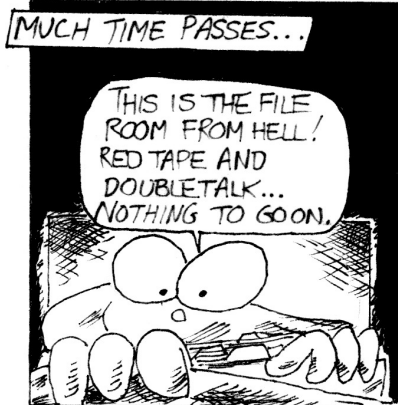
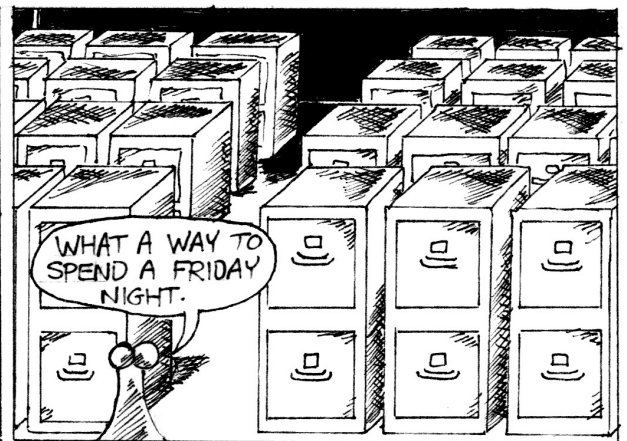
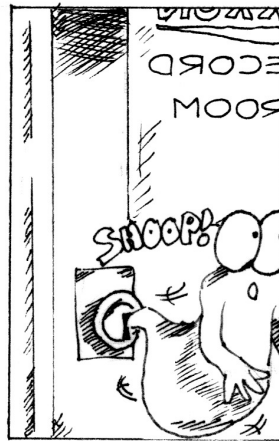


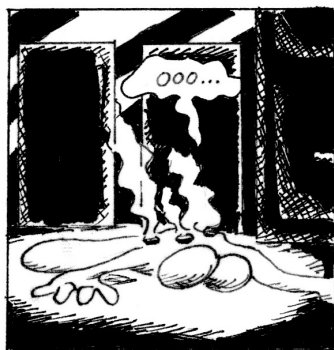
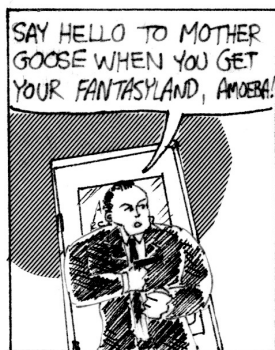




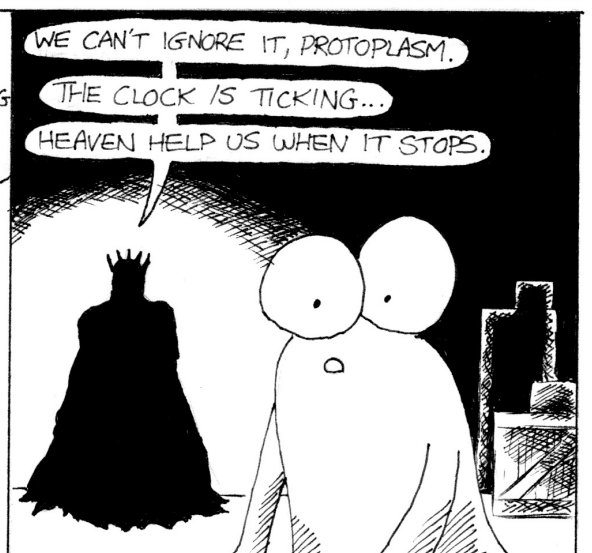
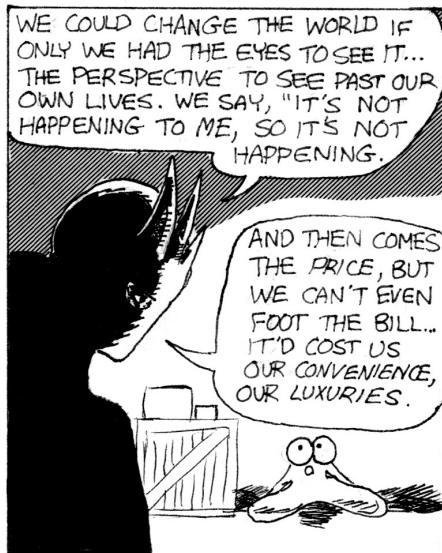
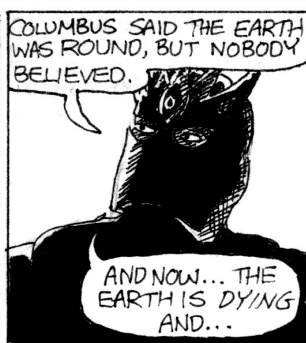
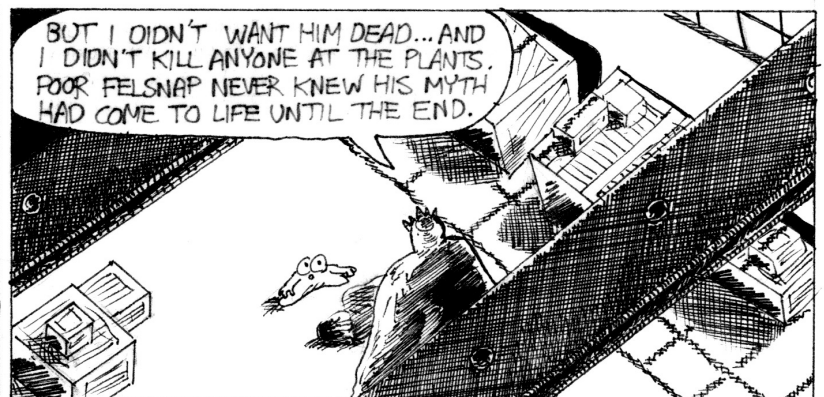
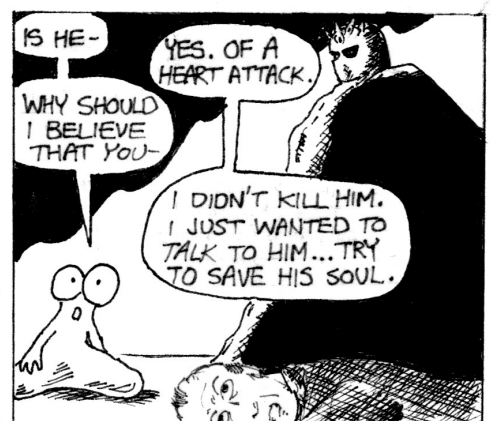
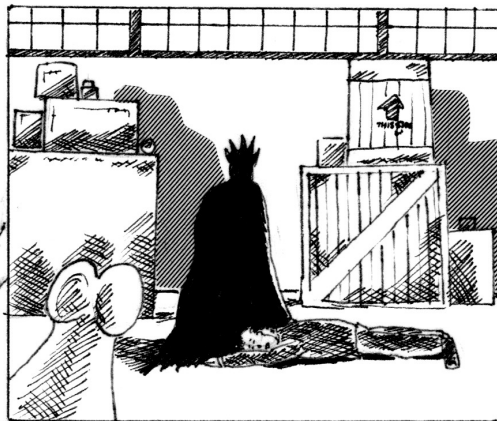
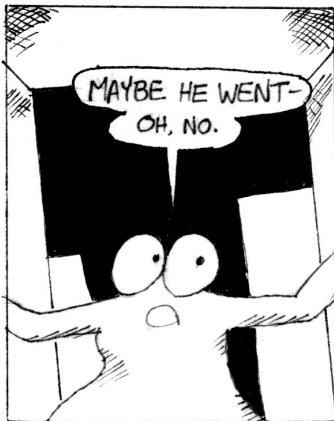
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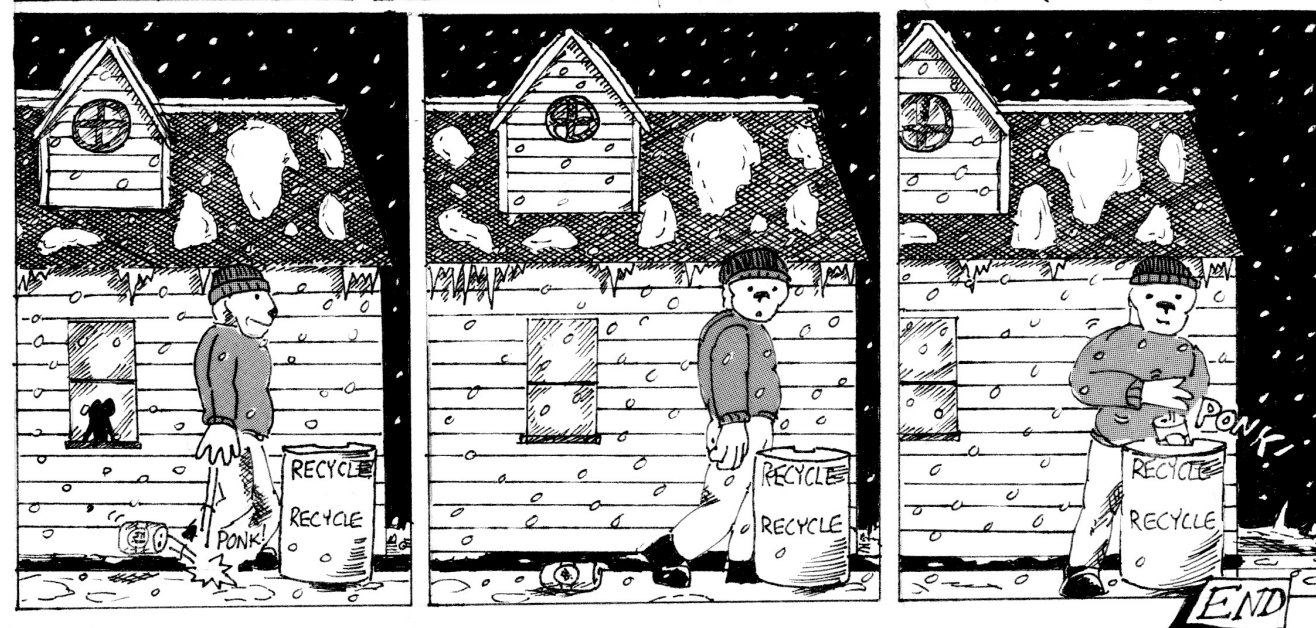
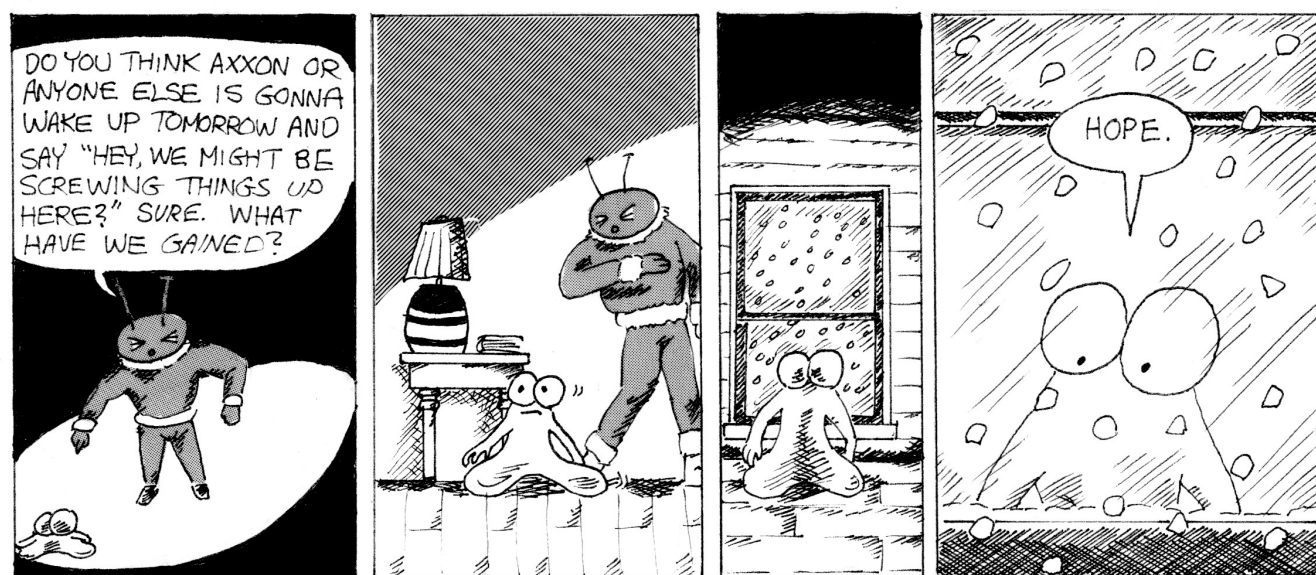
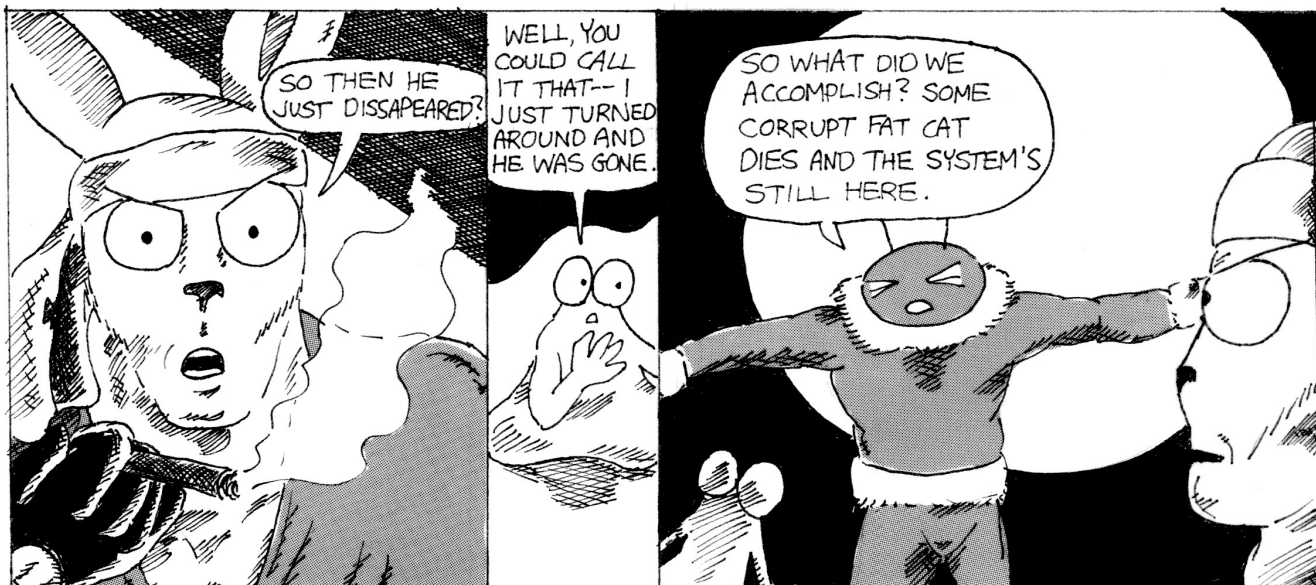


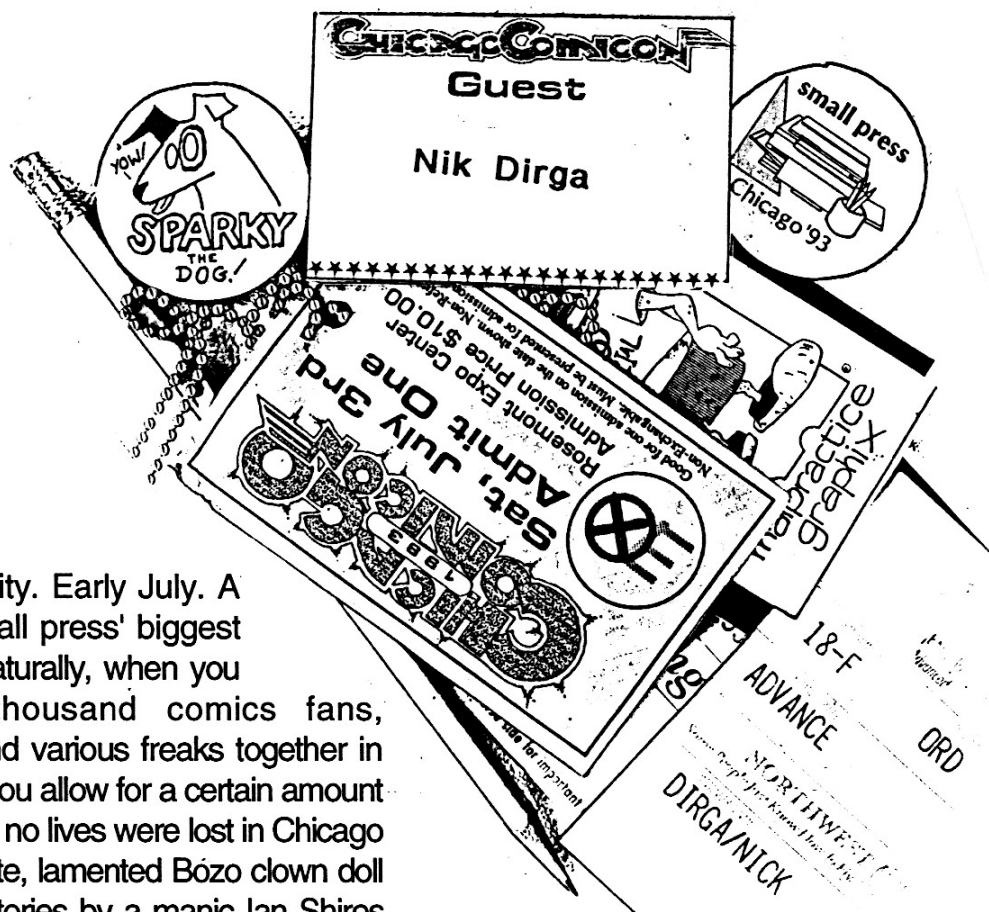












The Windy City. Early July. A gathering of small press' biggest and brightest. Naturally, when you get several thousand comics fans, professionals, and various freaks together in one small area, you allow for a certain amount of havoc. Luckily, no lives were lost in Chicago (except for the late, lamented Bózo clown doll thrown several stories by a manic Ian Shires late Saturday night), but a new sense of identity was forged among the many small pressers there. Among the present were:

Roll Call- Ian "Thanks For Stepping on My head" Shires, Jim Pack, Karen O'Donnell, Tim Kelly, Troy "Love Gladiator" Hickman, Ron "C'mon Fanboy!" Gravelle, Paul Quinn, Susan

# Chicagocon Report

## July 2-4, 1993

or, Nik through  
the looking  
glass..

Mills, Matt Feazell, Bob Corby, Tyim Courts, Kevin Carrier, Jay Marcy, Verl "The Streak" Holt Bond, The Rocco

Comics Gang, Amy Frushour, Greg Hyland and the Lethargic Comics Crew, complete with bull hom, Doug Lumley, Michael Neno, Larry Blake, Chris Aubry, Pam and Nick Bliss, and hundreds more! Plus, I got to rub elbows with the "real" comics stars like Dave *Cerebus* Sim, Neil *Sandman* Gaiman, Martin *Hepcats* Wagner (thanks again for the tips, Martin!), Roberta Gregory, Michael *Madman* Allred, and more!

As mentioned in my editorial this issue, all the chaos and goofy fun of this weekend can't be essayed by me as well as Jay Marcy did in his own little con report, which is available from him. So I'll just randomly recall some of the highlights interspersed with some photos of the soon-to-be-famous small press legions!

## CHICAGO COMICON: Next year, you go too!



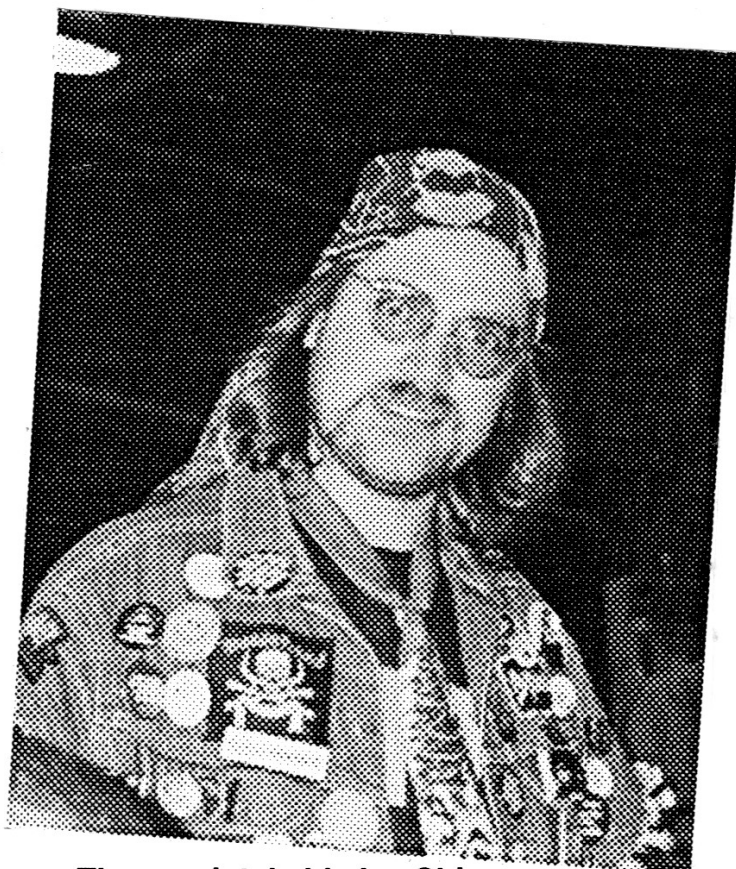
L-R: Matt Feazell, Pam Bliss, Chris Aubry, Chris' pal, Troy Hickman, Nick Bliss, Ian Shires, Tim Kelly, Susan Mills, and Amy Frushour posing for a group shot. Ever seen so many small pressers at once?

- Attempting to gather about a dozen of us together on Saturday night and deciding where to go to dinner: my goal, upon hearing of past disastrous attempts at other cons to do something similar, was to go somewhere "cheap and close." Three hours later, we ended up at Taco Bell.

- The manic Ian Shires...who burst into various hotel rooms, at various hours, with various brands of beer cans in his hand. Racing after him was like trying to follow a whirlwind.

- 8 comics for a buck boxes at the con...only here can you find such masterworks as *Zandar the Jungle King* and hundreds of old Atlas Comics for a mere 12.5¢ a copy.

- Visiting the Rocco Comics party Friday night, after an estimated 1.5



**The unmistakable Ian Shires**



hours of sleep in the last 48 hours and a long plane ride with plentiful delays...I was almost as out of it as Ian Shires, who kept calling Jay Marcy "Joe Meyer" and Paul Quinn "Peter Sandmark." The apex came when I turned around and saw one of the Rocco Comics guys had slipped on an enormous Hamster head (part of the costume promoting their comics) and

stood regarding Matt Feazell quizzically.

• Con Jams! Dozens of cool con jams were started, but in my immodest opinion the best one was the one I began that ended up with 33 names helping out on it! This masterpiece is on the back cover of this very issue. Of course, the jams got weirder as the days wore on, reaching a peak with

the caffeine and donut diet induced "Spam Jam" below.

• Razzing Image fans. So fun, it oughta be declared an official Olympic Sport. The "Spawnmobile," the height of conspicuous consumption, was an irresistible target for Greg Hyland and his bullhorn. Greg's defacing Image buttons was a con souvenir from nirvana.

• After the con wound down, we all hung out in the Canadian crowd's (Jay, Paul, and Ron)room ("We" being J. Kevin, Tyim, Bob, Susan and her husband Marty, and more of us) doing what small pressers do best, sketching, giving each other tips and praising each others work, finding out what



**SPAM JAM:** with Matt Feazell, Tim Kelly, Ron Gravelle, Paul Quinn, Sean Bieri, Jay Marcy, Pam Bliss, Doug Lumley, me, Tyin Courts, and Bob Corby. No subject too lame for a con jam.



each other does "in real life," reciting lines from *Holy Grail* endlessly, and generally, as Susan so aptly put it, feeling like we were a bunch of old relatives suddenly reunited. Comradery at its best.

- "Famous" people sightings. I rode an elevator upon six floors with Todd McFarlane, not knowing who he was in the slightest. The conversation:

Todd: "Nice con, huh?"

Nik: "Yeah, pretty cool."

Then about ninety fanboys got on and began drooling profusely. One asked me if I'd autograph his book cause I was "a friend of Todd's".

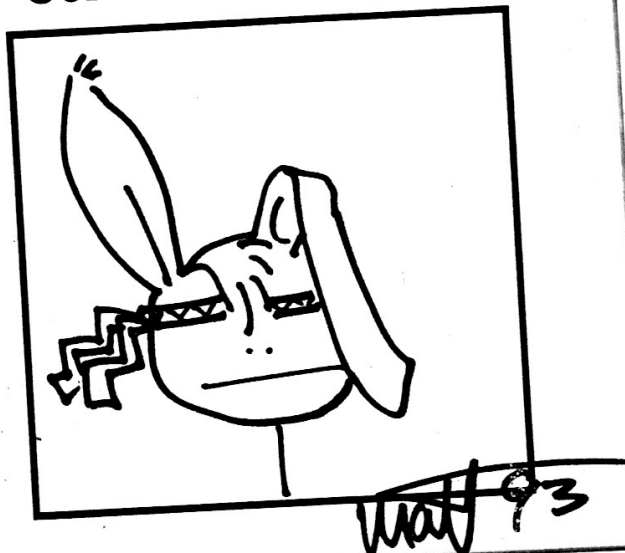
- Performing stirring renditions of the theme from *Star Wars*, among other tunes, on the bevy of Taco Bell kazoos Ian handed out.

- Finally meeting "my biggest fan," Annie..I mean, Troy, Hickman. Although we didn't get as much of a chance to talk as I'd have liked, I still got to hang with one of the best pals I've got in small press a lot. (And damn it, Hickman, send back my wallet!)

- Missing those bums who didn't show: Chris Terry, Joe Meyer, Sam Gafford, Bob Elinskas: come next year!!

- Chatting about the general downward-spiral in the quality of today's comics with Michael Neno, Kevin Carrier, and Larry Blake. It's funny that we got more kicks out of getting stuff like a classic 60's Captain Marvel comic (this ain't the ones we're used to, but some dork who could split off his extremities (most of them, anyway) from his body by crying out "Xaxam!". No, really. Anyway..) than by buying the latest X-Crap.

## Authentic, Original **MATT FEAZELL** Convention Sketch



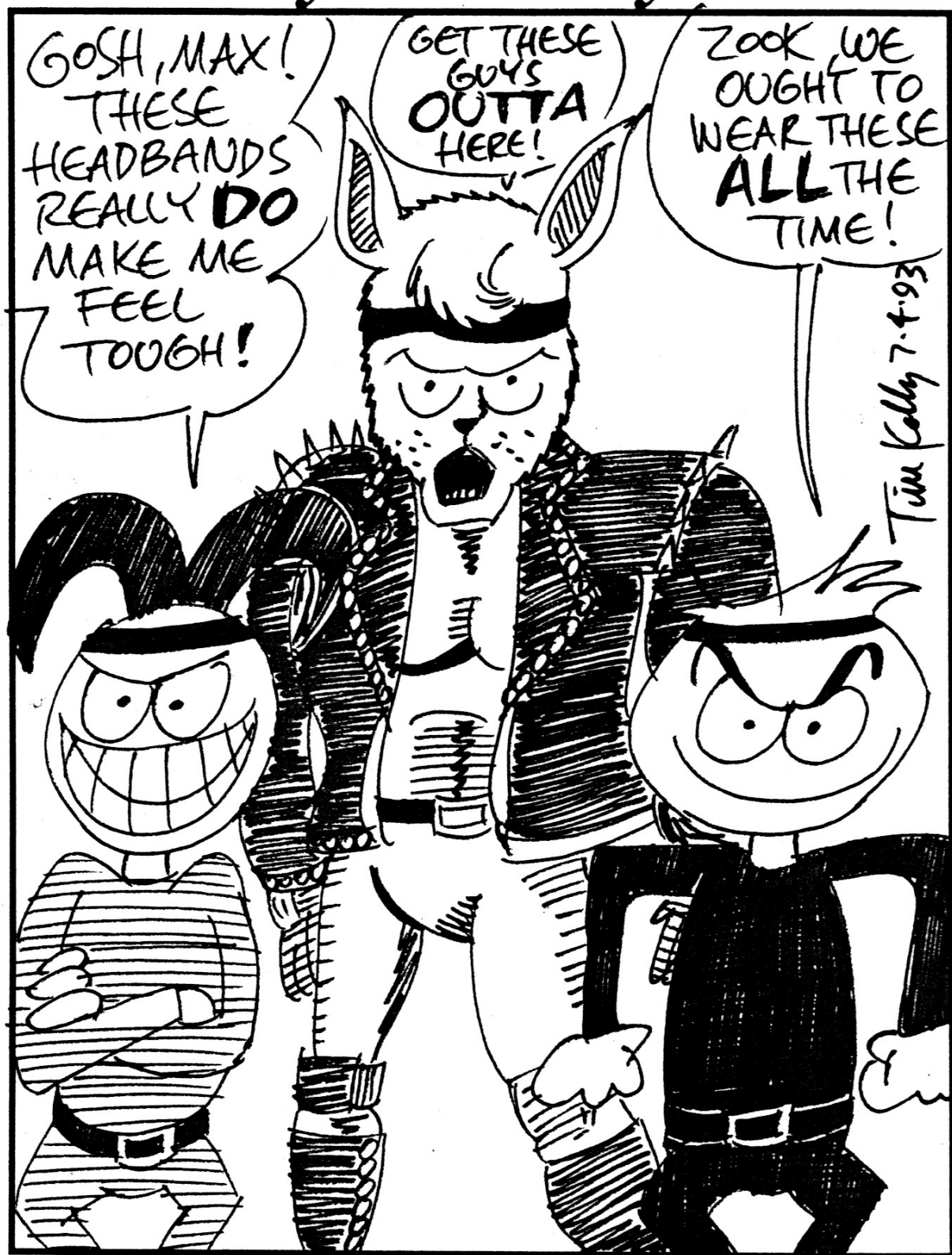
**Hangin' with the Troymeister "where is his other hand at?"**

- Learning that any available food place was at least 5 miles from the Hyatt, excepting the outrageous hotel food (\$8 for a hamburger?). Thanks to Pam Bliss for the pretzels, without which I'd have surely died by Sunday.

- All in all, the Chicagocon was a great, wonderful, funkadelic time, and I want to thank everyone who made it great fun for a big Nik to be at.

# CONVENTION SKETCH

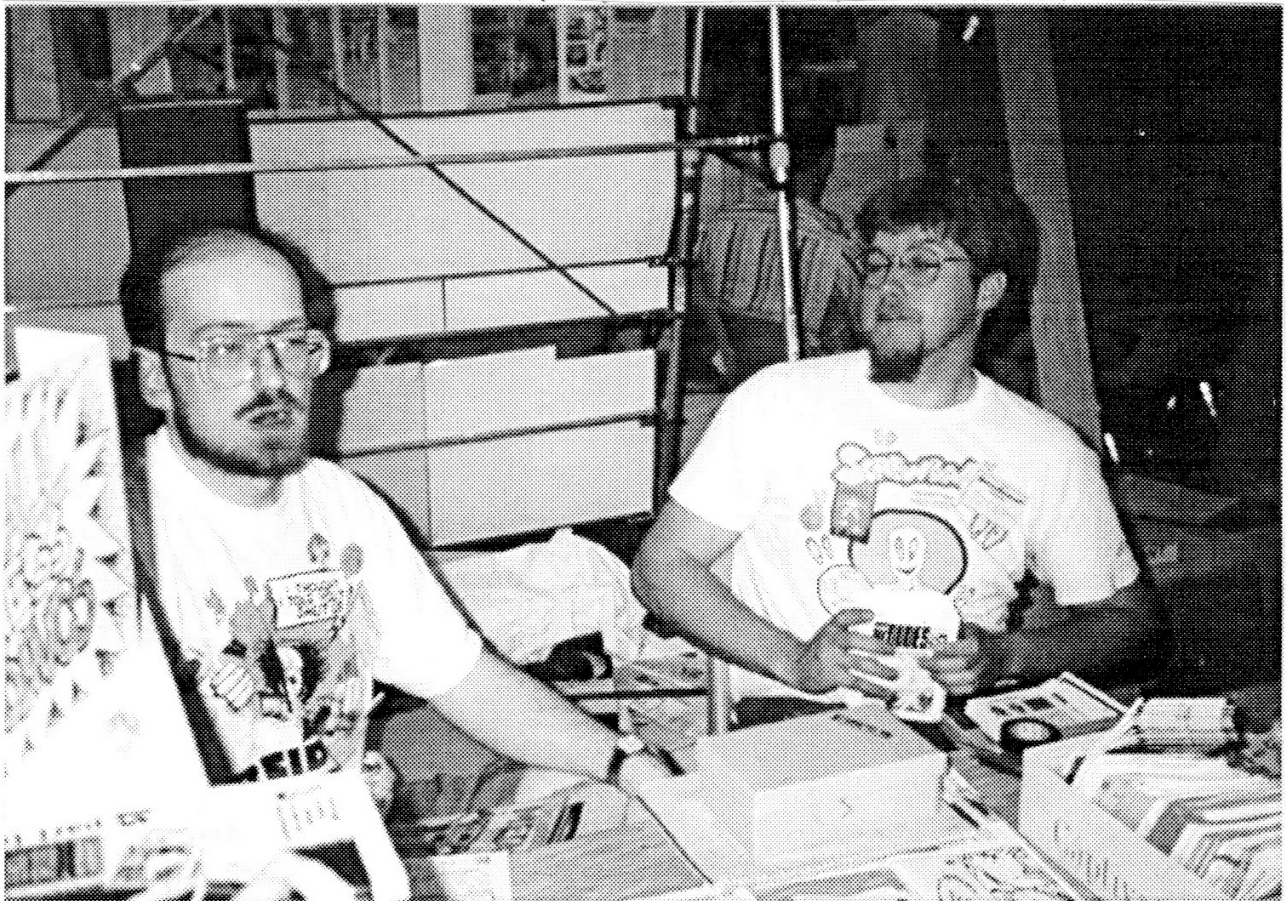
*By Tim Kelly!*



*Souvenir of the 1993 Chicago ComiCon*



Above: the humble author, Susan E. Mills, and Jay "Powerwus" Marcy  
Below: the stress begins to show on J. Kevin Carrier and Tyim Courts.



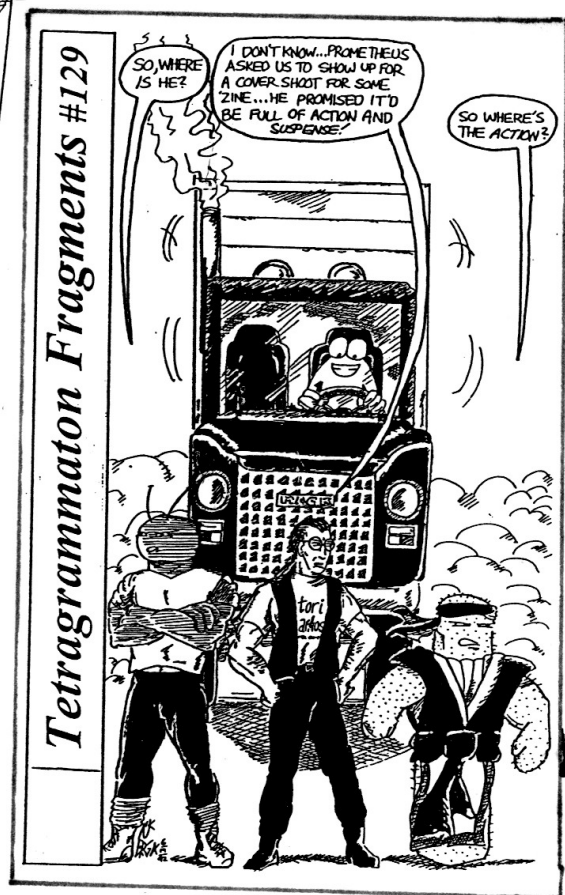


# COVER GALLERY



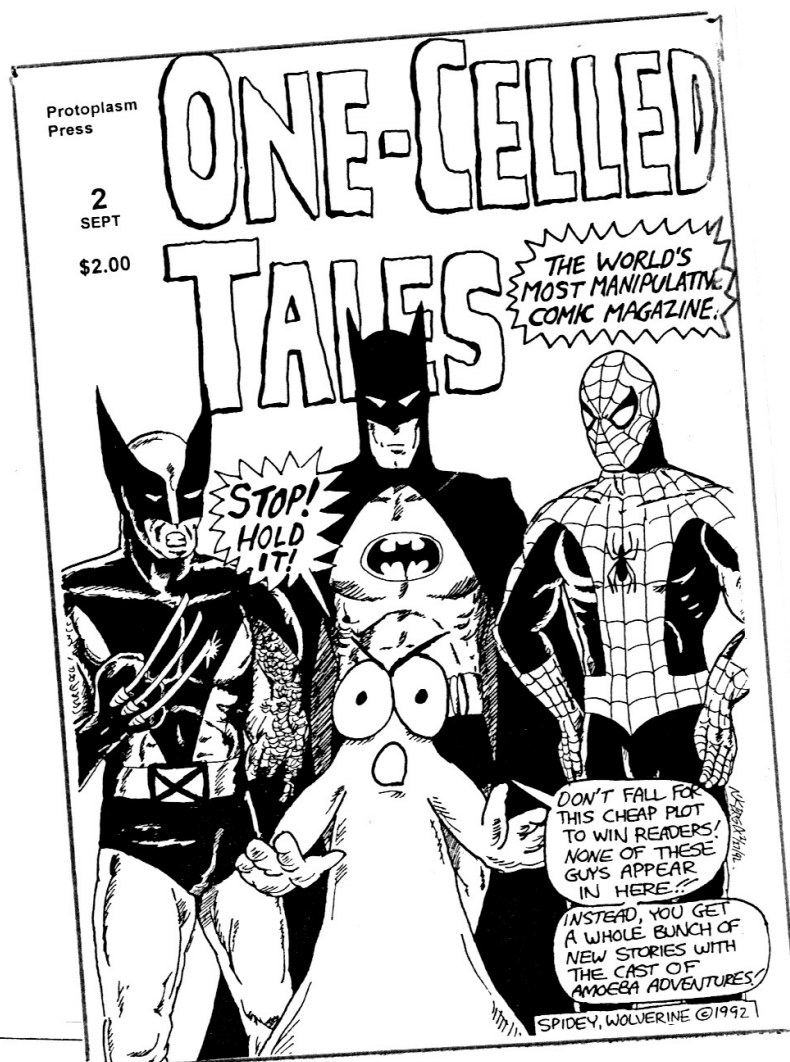
Cover from  
Jim Pack's  
COMICIST,  
November 1991

Cover from the  
UFO newsletter,  
Sept. 1992





Unpublished cover, for the book that eventually became this one.



Cover from the SPS newsletter, August 1993

# AMOEBA MAIL

Comments, chatter, and constructive criticism sent to P.O. Box 2230, University, MS 38677-2230. Write!

(Another day, another lettercol... Heck, it's not just a lettercol this time...I'm also running the winner and runners-up in the Official 1993 Design A Costume For Dawn Star Contest! Hoo ha! I'm gonna start off by running a few comments on the grand conclusion to the "Details of Design" epic in *Amoeba Adventures* #10 - Nik)

J. Kevin Carrier  
Cincinnati, Ohio

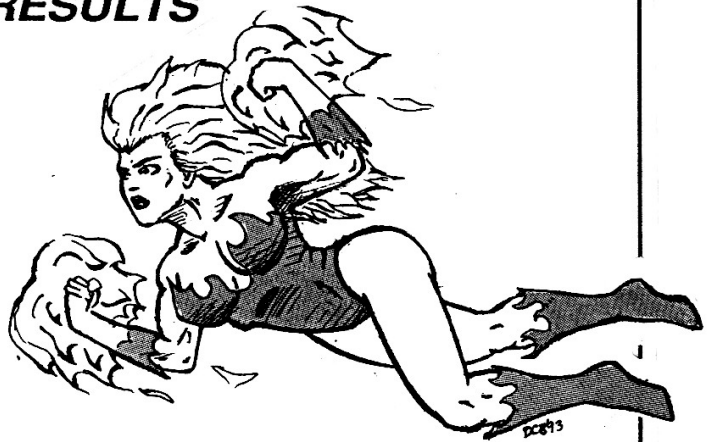
...It's to your credit that even with such a large cast, everyone gets a moment to shine. I was especially taken with the irony of Spif—the one most reluctant to go on a revenge mission, and the one who went out of his way to be compassionate to Alex—being the one who gets nailed at the end. Isn't that always the way, in war? I like Kyoko a lot (great costume!)...she is a great foil for Ninja Ant. Hank and Dawn still need developing. Hank's fear of losing control is a bit too reminiscent of "Dark Phoenix," while Macabre's crack about him being an "Elemental" brings to mind Swamp Thing. But hey, they just got here, so I suppose we ought to give you a chance to make something of them.

A minor complaint: the printing of the cover (at least of my copy) is very muddy. (OK, OK, lots of you pointed this out to me. Fact is, there were a couple reasons Max's cover didn't print so hot. The original he sent me was wonderful, full of detail and his usual fine lines. However, as we all know, there was a substantial delay between my doing #9 and #10. Max

sent me the cover in November '92, and it basically sat in my closet until May. In the meantime, what Max called "the cheap ink" he used faded a hell of a lot, to the point where lots of the detail was lost. I hoped it would've

printed better but it didn't. Also, the clay stock I chose for the cover, while all nice 'n' shiny, didn't help any. Oh well. You learn every time, I guess.) Say, whatever happened to that T-shirt you were going to print up? (Me again. Good question, J.!

## DAWN STAR'S DESIGN A COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS



**THIRD PLACE: DAVE BERNIS** of  
Delray Beach, Florida

Dave gets a free copy of AMOEBA ADVENTURES #1!

You were the only one who expressed any real interest to me in one, so I canned the idea. Perhaps if enough people are interested, though...I would love to see last issue's cover on a shirt myself. Lemme know, kids!)

And on a completely ridiculous note: my mother saw this issue and she is convinced that Prometheus is some kind of giant phallic symbol. She may have a

## DAWN STAR'S DESIGN A COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS



### SECOND PLACE: J. KEVIN CARRIER of Cincinnati, Ohio

J. gets a free signed sketch of the character of his choice!

point...check out that shot on the bottom left corner of pg. 12. (Obviously your mother hasn't seen the Asbestos Mushroom yet...)

Bob Elinskas  
Utica, New York

O.K., the story itself wasn't too bad. I think you may have put in too much humor for a story that seemed like it should have been very serious. You see, when the team is waiting to travel to confront Master Macabre again (which I thought should have been pretty serious judging from the character's reactions and hesitations to go back to begin with), you have Karate Kactus

playing with Raoul, Kyoko slicing pants, green Jell-O (not the rock band, fortunately), and other things that seemed to take away from the seriousness of the tone that, I think, you were trying to build.

So, by the time we see the actual "final battle," it doesn't seem as real or as ultimate as an ending chapter should be. Well, that's just my opinion.

The artist's not too bad. I really liked Tony's inks on the middle chapter. Jason Wright's inks could've been more detailed and sharper on the final chapter, but overall, not a bad job.

Matt Kelleigh  
Bremerton, Washington

This is one of the most consistently well-written books I've seen in the small press so far. Very human characters (so to speak), and logical, real motivations. You really put your all into writing this book, and it shows. Now if only you could get an artist to stick around for more than a few issues. "Details of Design" would've made a much better arc if the artwork had remained tight for the duration. (Agreed. However, I was the sole penciller for the entire story..but Anthony Gray inked #9, and Tony and Jason did #10, giving things a bit of a schizophrenic look. For the next arc, around #20 or so, I plan to have one art team the entire time. Who? Not tellin'.) Tony's inks were well-done, but I thought Jason Wright's were too simplistic. They did little more than convey the general gist of what was happening.

Lynn Allen  
Franklin, Kentucky

I saw some real character development this time which I must comment on. Prometheus really got bloodthirsty and Rambunny's getting wimpy. I hope Ram's only going through a phase (Indeed he is, Lynn, in a way. This "phase" will culminate in #16, which will tell the long-awaited origin of Rambunny, with art by Max Ink again!).

Also, I can't resist a challenge so I've included a few designs for Dawn Star's new costume. I do have to say that Dawn Star's present uniform could be better. Speaking of costumes, Ninja Ant's was *horrible!!!* It was ugly as hell! It was scary! It was out of fashion! Man, it was just plain, downright, totally, completely ugly! Please! Don't do that *ever* again! I'm gonna be having nightmares for a year! I hope you're happy!

(Hmmm..should I tell her the costume was meant as a *joke* or not?)

**NEXT:** It's two months after the conclusion of "Details of Design" and things are finally getting back to normal. Join Ninja Ant, Kyoko, Dawn, and Spif for a glitzy night on the town in Spongopolis as they ring up their credit cards, dance the night away, and face the return of Herr Heinous! Gah!

## DAWN STAR'S DESIGN A COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS



**FIRST PLACE: JASON WRIGHT** of Utica, New York

Jason gets all kinds of cool stuff, in a huge package of about 25-30 small press books I have left from my ZINE days that I simply don't have room to keep or have copies of already. Included are issues of DUNGAR, FUTURO TIERRA, THE BAT, and other great stuff!

Below: Amoeba Scribe Dr. Hickman unearthed this rare unedited version of *Batman* #1...can you say "Plagiarism"?





To All Our Fans  
Flaming Flag

PROMY (the boy blob)



# CREATOR FOCUS

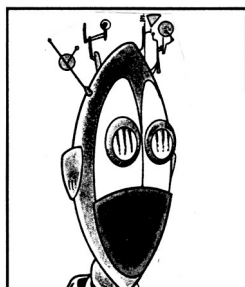


## JOHN HURLEY

often has been known to say, "the banjo is my life!" Besides twanging out his impressive hillbilly oeuvre, this talented fellow is also listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "Only Man Who Can Sneeze Out Of His Ears."

## LYNN ALLEN

was raised as a princess on the remote South Seas island of N'mu'ch't'chuk. After the island was depopulated in a military mishap, Lynn fled to Europe where she spent many years as the philosopher Sartre's "companion." She now resides in Kentucky, raising chickens and practicing her kazoo.

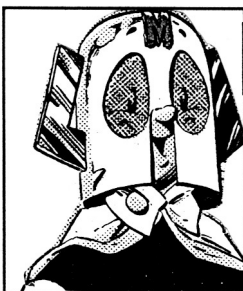


## TONY LORENZ™

was constructed in 1985. When not computing complex algorithims or doing government work, he produces the highly acclaimed small press comic *Futuro Tierra*. Especially noteworthy is the fact that Tony™ is the only small-presser who comes equipped with his own built-in stapler.

## TROY HICKMAN

died last February but, in his own words, "has never felt better!" Small-press' favorite corpse is the winner of numerous awards, including "Best Writer" in the 1993 FEEDBACK! Awards, and "Worst-Dressed" on Blackwell's 1993 list.



## DOUG LUMLEY

or "Shecky" to his friends, fights crime in his native Lafayette, Indiana on alternating weekends. He proudly boasts that he once "almost" apprehended a jaywalker. Doug still lives with his mother but "doesn't see that as morally wrong."

## SAM GAFFORD

dwells in the wilds of the Australian outback and wrestles elk when he's not test-piloting B-2's. He recently won a Nobel Prize for his first novel, "Naked Came I," and holds three Oscars for his work in films. Somewhere in there, he also finds time to be chairman of the United Fanzine Organization.



## NIK DIRGA

is free on bail.

**BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE:  
NEW TEAM.  
NEW ADVENTURES.  
NEW DIRECTIONS.**



# UFO CHECKLIST

\*\*\*\*\*  
These are the latest releases from the UFO (United Fanzine Organisation) co-op,  
currently available during the summer of 1993. For information on joining the UFO,  
contact chairman Sam Gafford/ 53 Anawamscutt Dr./ Bristol, RI 02809.  
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## **AMOEBAS ADVENTURES #10**

(\$2.00 from Nik Dirga/ P. O. Box 2230/ University/ MS/ 38677)

At last! The blockbuster showdown with Master Macabre! The epic that has unfolded throughout the last issues of AA concludes with "The Circle" in which Prometheus finally learns why Macabre has been tormenting him and wishes he hadn't! Nik Dirga, Tony Lorenz, and Jason Wright present an adventure with the All-Spongy Squadron that can't be missed!

## **THE ATTIC #1**

(\$2.00 from Jim Main/ 14 Bostwick Place/ New Milford/ CT/ 06877)

Evil lurks within the crowded attic of Mr. Thorndyke's gloomy manor and only the caretaker, Allister Grimsby, knows where! Grimsby relates two tales of terror; "Madame Boogala's Scarf" by Larry Johnson with inks by Jim Pack and "Violent Disagreement" written by Brian K. Morris and art by Mike Barreiro. Jim Main breathes new life into the horror anthology with this deadly duo of stories!

## **COMET TALES #7**

(\$3.00 from Jim Pack/ 7534 Kingsgate Way/ West Chester/ OH/ 45069)

The latest issue of Jim Pack's classic zine contains an issue long story, "Space Ace in the Flower Power War!" Written and drawn by Jim over the space of five years, it provides an excellent guide to the development of this talented writer and artist. It's one hoot of a story to boot! Read about the lonely guitar player who becomes engulfed in a space war that only rock music can finish!

## **CREATURE OF THE NIGHT TRAILER**

(FREE with a stamp from Chris Terry/ P.O. Box 647/ Westfield/ IN/ 46074)

The long awaited second issue of CREATURE OF THE NIGHT mini-zine is almost here and Chris provides a tantalizing glimpse of some of the panels from the upcoming story. Perfect for whetting that horror zine appetite.

## **NIGHTSTAR #10**

(\$2.00 from Larry Blake/ 69306 St. Rt. 124/ Reedsville/ OH/ 45772)

On the planet Fargonne, Nightstar and her friends face more danger! As Kevin prepares to fight for his citizenship, who is trying to kill him? Is it Nightstar's sister, Morningdove? Or is there more going on than any of them realise? Don't miss this pivotal issue in the Nightstar saga which will influence issues to come!

## **SMALL PRESS FEEDBACK #9**

(\$2.25 from Bob Elinskas/ 1805 Girard St./ Utica/ NY/ 13501)

Bob Elinska's acclaimed news/review zine comes to the UFO with it's



special summer 'fun in the sun' issue! Features include an interview with Pam Bliss, the winners of the 1993 FEEDBACK AWARDS, as well as a plethora of news, reviews, columns, and information. No respectable small presser should be without a copy!

#### **SYSTEMS OF DESIRE #4**

(\$2.00 from Mike Hegg/37167 Panton Terrace #2012/Fremont/ CA/ 94536 )

The zine that defies classification returns for another issue of strange art and stories. This issue contains a haunting short story by Brett Bogarde along with "The Reluctant Nomad", a comic strip journey into weirdness. Debuting this issue is a review column by Mike Hegg that covers some of the best, and WORST, of movie fare. Always intriguing, SYSTEMS OF DESIRE provides some of the most unusual reading in small press.

#### **TALES OF FANTASY #11**

(\$2.00 from Larry Johnson)

Madame Boogala returns in a issue long extravaganza by Larry Johnson! Learn some of the deep secrets behind this mysterious character that has been popping up in Johnson stories for years and her tragic story. Find out what happened to her son and what has made her the strange, tragic character she is. "The Demons' Bargain" is sure to be talked about in small press circles for years to come as THE pivotal Johnson story.

#### **TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS! (THE UFO NEWSLETTER)**

(\$2.00 for sample copy from Sam Gafford/ 53 Anawamscutt Drive/ Bristol/ RI/ 02809)

TF! is the Official Newsletter of the United Fanzine Organization, the longest running and most prestigious co-op in the alternative press. Each issue is loaded with columns from the members, news of upcoming publications, artwork, and much more. The current membership includes such small press luminaries as Bob Elinskas, J. Kevin Carrier, Kel Crum, Michael Hegg, Rick Howe, S. E. Mills, and many more. Find out why this co-op is growing by leaps and bounds!



- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (1. Miss Kitty (S.E. Mills)                        | (24. Prometheus (Nik Dirga)          |
| (2. Yendie Wildcritter (S.E. Mills)                | (25. Dawn Star (Nik Dirga)           |
| (3. Clayton Stiles (Chris Aubry)                   | (26. Lady Spectra (J. Kevin Carrier) |
| (4. Cynicalman (Matt Feazell)                      | (27. Him (Steve Remen)               |
| (5. Cool Jerk (Sean Bieri)                         | (28. Spif (Nik Dirga)                |
| (6. Homo Gal (Sean Bieri)                          | (29. Rambunny (Nik Dirga)            |
| (7. Crime Doctor (Michael Neno)                    | (30. Raoul (Nik Dirga)               |
| (8. Hamster Man (Rocco Comics)                     | (31. Fist of Justice (Ron Gravelle)  |
| (9. Bro (Larry Nibert)                             | (32. Sparky the Dog (Pam Bliss)      |
| (10. Ghost of Smiley (Ian Shires)                  | (33. Tasha Karkof (Verl Holt Bond)   |
| (11. Amy Frushour                                  | (34. Mike Blues (Bob Corby)          |
| (12. Jessica Sapphire (Paul Quinn)                 | (35. Martian Cat (Jim Pack)          |
| (13. Lythor (Karen O'Donnell)                      |                                      |
| (14. Dr. Edward Stein (Troy Hickman & Doug Lumley) |                                      |
| (15. Tim Kelly                                     |                                      |
| (16. Bob the Viking (Larry Blake)                  |                                      |
| (17. Yo-Yo (Troy Hickman & Doug Lumley)            |                                      |
| (18. Chuck Neilson (Tyim Courts)                   |                                      |
| (19. Powerwus (Jason Marcy)                        |                                      |
| (20. Lethargic Lad (Greg Hyland)                   |                                      |
| (21. The Zit (Brian LeMay)                         |                                      |
| (22. Karate Kactus (Nik Dirga)                     |                                      |
| (23. Ninja Ant (Nik Dirga)                         |                                      |



27 Artists contributed to  
this jam piece!  
Find out who did what on  
the inside back cover!



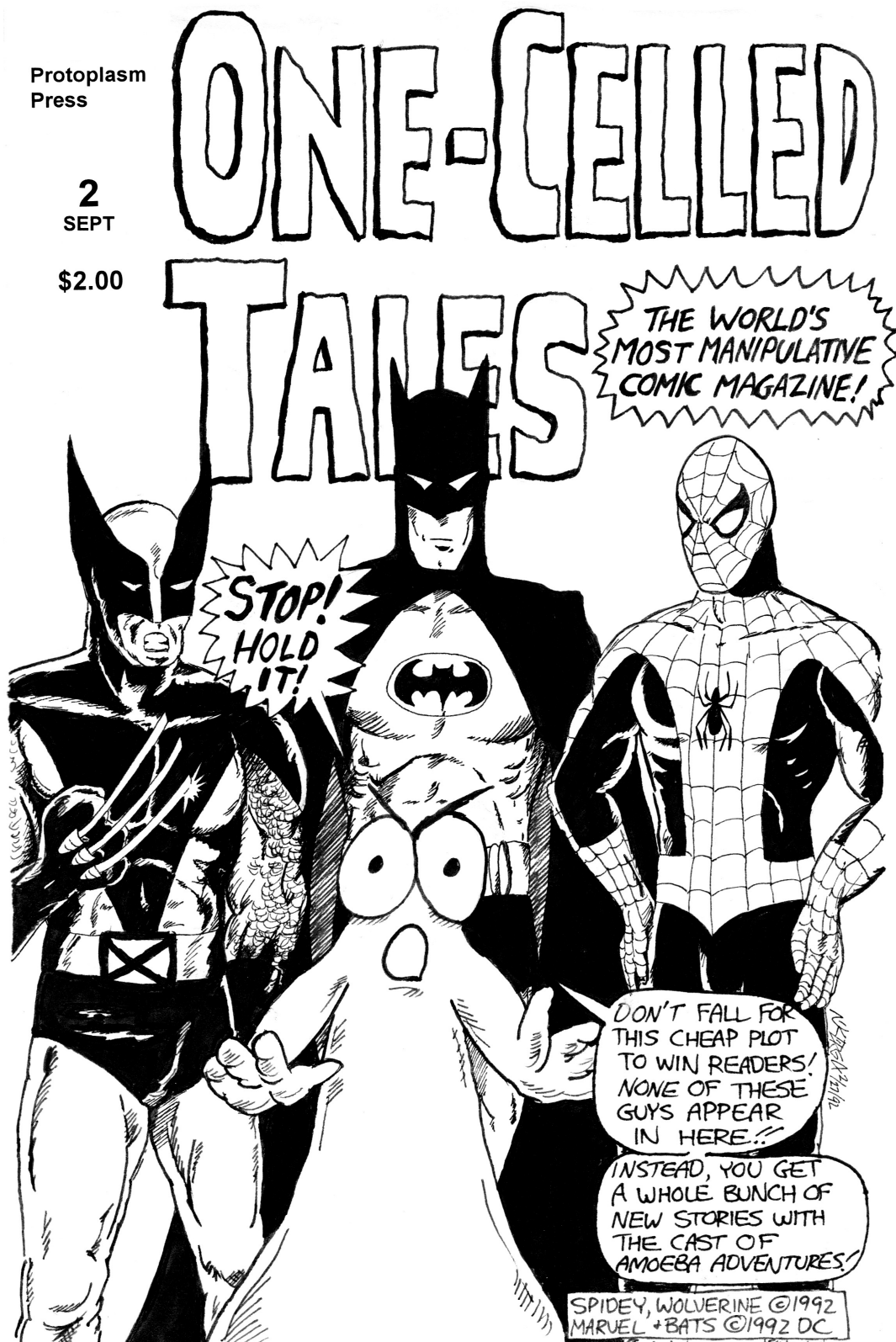
united  
fanzine  
organization



# SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION

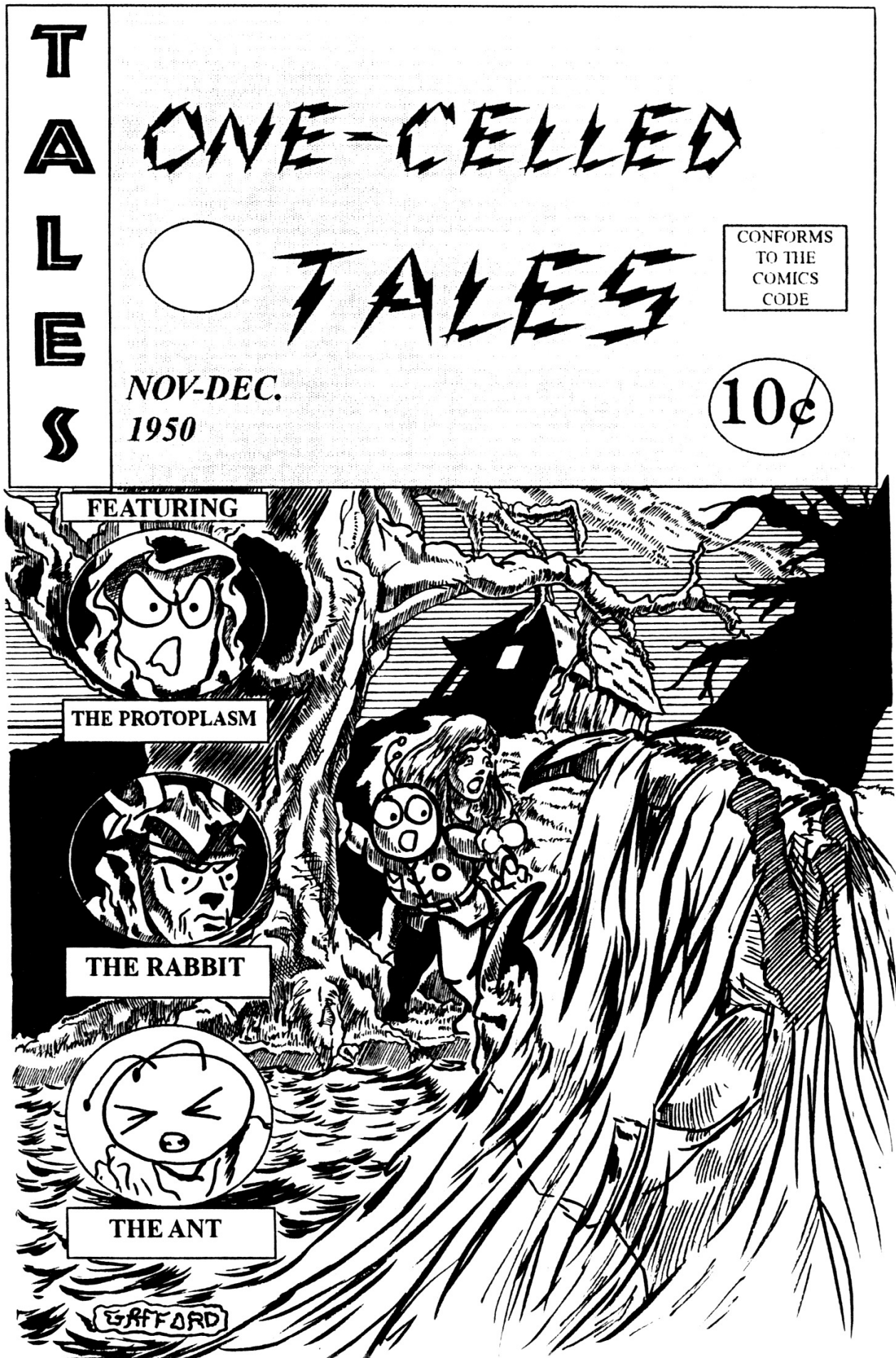
Amoeba Adventures #12 nearly killed me. It was the logical endpoint of my "gigantism" phase of collaborative self-publishing that included the jams Prometheus: Silent Storm and Prometheus Saves The Earth #1, and while it was a blast, I never did an issue quite so massive again. You can't add much in the way of extras to this beast but a few of the art pieces herein were run much too small in the original zine.

Thus, below the cover for what would've been "One-Celled Tales #2" but morphed into this issue. Behold the only in-continuity team-up of Spider-Man, Batman, Wolverine and Pro!





The late great Sam Gafford, who passed away in 2019, did a hilarious "EC Comics" parody for Troy Hickman's fake history. Here it is at a much larger size than on page 3.





...And here's J. Kevin Carrier's terrific "Brother Power The Geek" parody, also a bit larger.





A pin-up by Jason Marcy that didn't quite fit in this issue. But Jay did do some very fun Powerwus-Rambunny team-ups with me that'll appear in other issues of this PDF reprint series.

This PDF edition of Amoeba Adventures #12 is slightly different than the original comic. I've tried to present these comics "warts and all" exactly as they appeared in the 1990s, but with this issue I redid the lettering in the "Summer's End" collaboration with Tony Lorenz to make it a bit more legible, and deleted one page that was a rather mean-spirited attack on another artist, over something that seemed kind of important in 1993 but less so now. I've replaced that with the previously unpublished "Flaming Flag and Promy" art sketch on page 65.